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# Bush signals massive troop cuts in Europe

## Force level to be well below Vienna ceiling

From Peter Stothard and Martin Fletcher, Washington

The United States is accelerating plans for sweeping cuts in super-power forces in Europe that go far beyond those being negotiated at talks with the Warsaw Pact in Vienna.

President Bush telephoned President Gorbachev yesterday morning and discussed the proposals he was expected to outline in his first State of the Union speech to the American nation last night. The Vienna Conventional Forces in Europe talks, which could be completed this summer, would place a 275,000 ceiling on Soviet and American forces; but the President is now said to want "steepish" cuts that could take the ceiling down to about 200,000.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher was told earlier this week that the President intended to give a big push to conventional arms reduction in Europe, but she is still certain to be alarmed.

The Prime Minister has repeatedly opposed moving towards a new round of conventional arms reductions before the existing round has been implemented. And as late as yesterday morning, Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Defence who is in Washington for top-level meetings, repeated long-standing British warnings that Eastern

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Europe was still unstable and that fundamental changes in Nato's military posture were premature.

He said nothing should be done which undermined Nato. Simply consummating a first Conventional Forces in Europe treaty would be a major achievement and there were dangers in looking beyond that.

Mr Bush personally telephoned President Gorbachev in Moscow yesterday morning and the Soviet news agency Tass said the two leaders discussed "current issues concerning the international situation, mainly in Europe, and on the prospects for arms reduction talks." It was the first time the two leaders had spoken since the Malta summit.

Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, told reporters the call "had to do with some announcements that the President will have tonight in his State of the Union message, and beyond that I am not going to say anything further."

The administration's acceleration of its plans to get American forces out of Europe - including the closure of 12 foreign bases announced on Monday - has caught European diplomats by surprise.

The White House has been driven by two rapidly-intensifying pressures: the need to win Congressional support for a 1991 budget which has been

severely criticized for cutting domestic spending while leaving defence spending more or less unscathed; and the need to shore up the position of Mr Gorbachev whose shaky position is being viewed with growing alarm by State Department officials.

Mr Baker is flying to Moscow next week for talks on strategic arms reductions which are crucial if a Start treaty is to be ready for signing in June.

The White House said yesterday that Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachev had touched briefly on the question of Mr Gorbachev's reported intention - denied by the Soviet leader - to give up the leadership of the Soviet Communist Party.

Mr Richard Cheney, the American Defence Secretary, told reporters in Washington on Tuesday that the US was aiming for the eventual withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Eastern Europe once the present round of arms control talks were completed, with the US retaining only a modest presence.

Mr Cheney, under fire for failing to make deep cuts in the 1991 Pentagon budget, suggested there were huge savings to be made in the longer term.

Mr Bush's proposals would certainly win the support of Senator Sam Nunn, the key figure on defence issues on Capitol Hill. At the end of last month, he suggested US forces in Europe could be safely reduced to between 200,000 and 250,000.

Senior British diplomats in Washington moved on Tuesday night to clarify Mrs Thatcher's opposition to an immediate second round of Conventional Forces in Europe talks. It was suggested that conventional cuts beyond those being negotiated in Vienna need not necessarily be discussed within the CFE framework.

# Five die as Kosovo protests are crushed



Masked might: Yugoslav militiamen using tear gas to crush a protest by 3,000 ethnic Albanians, including women and children, at Potejevo in Kosovo, the troubled region where five people died yesterday during demonstrations demanding free elections and a multi-party system. Serb ultimatum, page 7.

## Dirty tricks in Ulster

# Thatcher: I was misled

By Nicholas Wood and Michael Evans

The Government yesterday launched a second investigation into the Colin Wallace affair after the Prime Minister admitted she had been personally misled over the existence of a black propaganda operation by security agencies in Northern Ireland in the 1970s.

The new inquiry by the Ministry of Defence will investigate how confidential papers about the dismissal of the former senior Army information officer went missing and were not brought to the attention of ministers when they denied the operation.

As Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, prepares to make a Commons statement today, the background of how officials discovered the two documents relating to the Clockwork Orange propaganda operation emerged.

They referred to the involvement of Mr Wallace in the secret campaign in Northern Ireland in the early 1970s and were uncovered by an MoD official as he searched through the archives for job appointment application records.

Previous searches in the archives had failed to uncover any reference to Mr Wallace's

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claimed secondary role in "psyops" - psychological warfare operations because officials had only examined Mr Wallace's personal file which charted his career as an Army information officer in Ulster from 1968 to 1975 when he was sacked for leaking a restricted document to a journalist.

When questions were raised in the Commons, ministers were briefed by officials to answer on the basis of the limited trawl through the records. The Prime Minister was one of those caught out by the failure to make wider searches.

However it is understood that officials at the MoD decided to carry out a wider investigation.

The second document recorded an oral description given to Mr Wallace of a covert role he would also be expected to play. It was this document which referred to Clockwork Orange.

Mr Wallace has claimed that he was victimized because he exposed dirty tricks and black propaganda campaigns in Ulster when security forces were competing for supremacy.

# Firemen fly in to tackle ferry blaze

By Paul Wilkinson

Fire crews were flown to a ferry in the Irish Sea yesterday after an engine room blaze left it drifting without power in 20ft waves and gale-force winds.

Three RAF helicopters landed 14 fire fighters and equipment on the pitching deck of the 8,000-tonne Sealink ferry, St Columba.

Crew abandoned the port engine room as smoke billowed through the car deck and crowded public areas.

Passengers and crew not engaged in firefighting were issued with life jackets and mustered at lifeboat stations.

The fire crews controlled the blaze quickly. However, attempts to restart the starboard engine failed. After drifting for four hours, the ferry was taken under tow and brought to Holyhead harbour.

All 199 passengers and 86 crew were reported to be unharmed. The St Columba

was 10 miles west of South Stack, Anglesey, on a crossing from Dun Laoghaire, when the captain put out a mayday.

Three senior fire officers from Gwynedd, flown to the ferry by helicopter from RAF

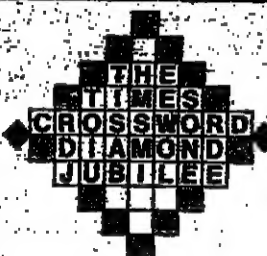
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Valley, Anglesey, called in the extra fire fighters when a second, smaller blaze was found in the ship's funnel.

The fire brigade at Holyhead said: "Conditions were not very pleasant. It was gale-force, reaching force nine in gusts, and the ferry was going up and down like a yo-yo."

The coastguard at Holyhead said: "The weather was pushing the ship to the south-west away from the land, so there was no immediate danger of running aground."

## INSIDE



Today marks the sixtieth anniversary of The Times Crossword - the most famous puzzle in the world. To mark the event we are publishing The Times Diamond Jubilee Crossword, the biggest we have ever compiled, and as challenging as any published since February 1, 1930. The fourth set of clues to this prize puzzle appears on page 11

## Portfolio PLATINUM

There was one winner of yesterday's Portfolio Platinum competition: see page 3. Today's chance to win £2,000 is on page 31

Our Science & Technology section - pages 35 to 38 - reports on a bid by astronomers to prove one of Einstein's most baffling theories

## Heart op baby fights for life

The world's first heart operation on an unborn baby was performed to prevent the almost certain death of the child in the womb, surgeons have explained.

The baby boy, Michele Vermilio, now aged four weeks, whose parents live near Colchester, Essex, is struggling for life on a ventilator at Guy's Hospital, London. Page 3

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# Gorbachov quashes resignation rumour

From Mary Dejevsky  
Moscow

President Gorbachov yesterday dismissed out of hand an American report that he is about to resign as General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

Talking to journalists at a photo-call before meeting Senator Fernando Collor de Mello, President-elect of Brazil, Mr Gorbachov said he was preparing for important decisions on the Soviet Union's power structure.

The Soviet leader's emphatic denial came as evidence mounted that a top-level debate is in progress ahead of next week's Central Committee plenum about the nature and composition of both the Soviet party and state leadership.

Mr Gorbachov told the journalists that Tuesday evening's American Cable News

The US dollar fell sharply yesterday after rumours that President Gorbachov was about to step down, but recovered after his denial to close 20 points down at \$1.6885 to the pound.

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Network report that he was about to resign, which purported to emanate from within the Politburo, was without foundation.

"I have no intention of doing so," he said with characteristic directness. "No one has said this and I certainly didn't make any such statement. Any such suggestions are groundless."

In a highly unusual move, Tass also carried the Soviet leader's denial, quoting him as saying: "Evidently, it is in someone's interests to propagate such things." Mr Gorbachov said on page 22, col 7

# Falklands oil boom forecast

By Andrew McEwen  
Diplomatic Editor

The Falklands could become "another Aberdeen" when its Government introduces legislation soon to allow oil exploration, given the right diplomatic and commercial climate, Mr David McErlain, chairman of the Falklands Islands Company, has predicted.

Some industry sources believe that an exploration boom is only a few years away.

There has already been a flurry of interest from companies lured by the prospect that improved Anglo-Argentine relations could make exploitation viable. The Falklands Islands Company hopes to service oil rigs for exploration firms.

There are growing hopes that London and Buenos Aires will decide this month to renew diplomatic relations.

# Moynihan set for new drug inquiry

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

Mr Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, yesterday left for New Zealand ready to set up a new inquiry into drug-taking in British sport, as two Welsh weightlifters flew home after positive tests for banned

steroids at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland.

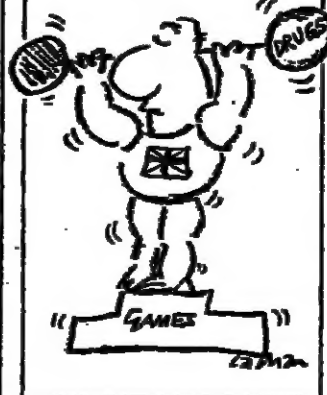
Mr Moynihan, who is attending the Commonwealth Sports Ministers Conference, is hoping to collaborate with Sebastian Coe in a further investigation to the one that the pair conducted in 1987. The inquiry was being mooted before the latest incidents at the Commonwealth Games but the incidents in Auckland

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give the investigation, which will largely centre on weightlifting, particular importance.

Last month, the British Sports Council announced an inquiry into weightlifting, and yesterday the Sports Council of Wales said it would independently be investigating

Continued on page 22, col 1



# Bible belt donor sues sect to get back £23,000

By Kerry Gill

An hotelier in the Morsy Firth "Bible belt" told a court yesterday how he became obsessed with the beliefs of a religious sect which talked him into giving up all his worldly possessions to achieve eternal salvation.

Saying he failed to receive redemption from the power of sin, Mr Ernest Anderson is now suing the sect for more than £23,000 at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

Mr Anderson said that after becoming attached to the doctrines of the Beacon Fellowship, established in the fishing port of Buckie 11 years ago, he handed over his books to be burned when the sect told him they were "satanic literature". He claimed that after he was put into a "trance" he handed

over donations of £23,100 to the fellowship. He now wants the cash back.

Detailing some of the occurrences while he was a follower, Mr Anderson told of how Pastor James Addison, of the fellowship, prayed and laid his hands on him speaking in a slow, hypnotic voice. He claimed that he was left in a two-day-long trance and acted "like an automaton", lacking free will.

He alleged that on that occasion he gave £9,000 to the fellowship and several days later, after a late-night prayer and indoctrination session, he handed over a further £13,500 and later gave £600 to "someone who was blind". Mr Anderson, of Rosser House, Echt, Grampian, alleges that

these donations were taken by the members of the fellowship from him by fraud and circumvention on the part of the members. He also is claiming that because he handed over money while in such a frame of mind, the fellowship was not entitled to keep the cash.

Lord McCuskey said Mr Anderson owned an hotel in Buckie which included a hall. The fellowship hired the hall on some occasions, but Mr Anderson agreed to sell the hall to the sect for £25,000 with entry date. Lord McCuskey said it was claimed that a month or two before the date of entry in 1985, representatives from the fellowship visited Mr Anderson and "pressed their religious practices on him". It was said that at the time he

suffered a manic depressive illness. Lord McCuskey said it was claimed that the sect preached that money was valueless and exhorted him to renounce all his possessions.

Lord McCuskey said that there was sufficient in Mr Anderson's claims to warrant evidence being heard.

Last night, Pastor Addison - known locally as Pastor Jim - said from his home in Buckie: "It is very sad when you are being accused of something which is totally wrong and never took place."

He said that as a result of the action, the church's assets had been frozen. "But when you read the Bible, the Apostle Paul had much more difficulties than we have."

## ADVERTISEMENT

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## Background to revelations over Operation Clockwork Orange

## Allegations reopen the case of Wilson 'smear campaign'

By Nigel Williamson, Political Staff

The allegations made by Mr Colin Wallace of a "dirty tricks" campaign waged by the security services during 1974 and 1975 against Mr Harold Wilson and other leading politicians began to surface in the left-wing press in 1986, and overlaid, in part at least, with the claims of Mr Peter Wright in *Spycatcher*.

Mr Wallace has written: "Information supplied by the CIA and the security services (MIS) was used to justify a number of in-depth investigations into Harold Wilson's activities and those of other Labour MPs/supporters to find out if sufficient 'hard evidence' could be gathered to wreck the Labour Party's chances of gaining power..."

"When the investigations failed to uncover anything of value, elements within the security service, supported by others in Whitehall, including former members of the Intelligence and Security Services, embarked upon a disinformation campaign to achieve the same objective."

It was at this point that Wallace claims that "Clockwork Orange", a covert operation aimed at destabilizing extremist groups in which he

was involved, was taken over for the purpose of smearing the Labour Party. It is this exercise to which Mr Wallace claims, as an Army information officer serving in Northern Ireland, he was asked to contribute.

Mr Wallace states that smear stories against prominent politicians were then distributed through a number of news agencies, many of them based in the United States, including the Information Research Department, North Atlantic News Agency, the Transworld News, Forum World Features and Previews.

Several of the smears concerned Mrs Marcia Williams, a Wilson aide. Other smears said that Mr Wilson had refused to allow MI5 to carry out positive vetting of some members of his staff because it would have revealed them to be Communist agents; that a KGB cell was operating inside 10 Downing Street; that Mr

Information. The story has been partly corroborated by Dr Edward von Rothkirch of Transworld, who told the authors Barry Penrose and Roger Courtier that in 1975 he was offered "delegatory material" on 11 MPs — a Conservative, two Liberals and eight Labour — including Mr Harold Wilson.

Dr von Rothkirch became suspicious because money was never requested for the material. "They were far more interested in knowing that their material might go out on the international wire services."

The main smears seem to have surrounded the former Prime Minister, Mr Wilson (now Lord Wilson of Rievaulx).

Mr Wallace has listed 10 smears he claims he was asked to spread.

Several of the smears concerned Mrs Marcia Williams, a Wilson aide. Other smears said that Mr Wilson had refused to allow MI5 to carry out positive vetting of some members of his staff because it would have revealed them to be Communist agents; that a KGB cell was operating inside 10 Downing Street; that Mr

Wilson himself was KGB-controlled; that Hugh Gaiskill was murdered by the KGB to bring Mr Wilson to power; that Mr Wilson's KGB controller was Dick Vaynskian, an acquaintance of Lord Kagan; that senior Labour politicians were involved in income tax fraud; that more than 30 Labour MPs were active Communists; and that Mr Edward Short, the deputy leader of the Labour Party, had a secret bank account in Switzerland.

A number of these are also duplicated in the claims of Mr Peter Wright.

Mr Wallace has also provided a list of MPs he says were on a list of targets he was given for "psy-ops" (psychological operations). Those include Dame Judith Hart, Mr Kevin McNamara and Mr Stan Thorne.

All of them have reported curious events at the time that Mr Wallace alleges the smear campaign was at its height.

The smears Mr Wallace claims he was asked to disseminate also covered Mr Edward Heath and the then leader of the Liberal Party, Mr Jeremy Thorpe.

Parliament, page 10

## High seas batter coastal resorts

By Paul Wilkinson

The owners of the Greek freighter lost with all hands during gales in the Solent on Tuesday Southampton's port authorities for its sinking as stormy weather continued to lash coastal areas yesterday.

Mr Theodore Vassiliou, managing director of the Golden Union Shipping Company, of Piraeus, said the authorities should have ensured that the *Flag Theofano* was brought into a safe harbour. Instead, it was told to ride out the storm at sea. "Lives could have been saved," he said.

The *Flag Theofano*, carrying 4,000 tonnes of cement between Le Havre and Southampton, was advised to anchor off the Isle of Wight after the weather worsened. The ship and its 19 crew vanished during the night without sending a mayday. Two bodies have been found.

Captain John Read, Southampton's harbour master, said: "There was no way the pilot launch could get out to the vessel and the ship could not enter the docks without their expertise."

● The body of an Irish sailor was found after an inflatable lifeboat capsized during the rescue of the 16-man crew of a Spanish trawler in Bantry Bay, Ireland, yesterday.

● Up to three million trees were blown down during the storms last week, the Forestry Commission said. Up to one million trees were lost in Devon and Cornwall.



High seas pounding the inner harbour at Portsmouth on the north Cornwall coast yesterday.

## NEWS ROUNDUP

## More than 1.5m unlicensed TVs

Evasion of television licences is costing each licensed viewer £5 a year, Sir Clive Whitmore, Permanent Secretary to the Home Office, told the Commons Public Accounts Committee last night (writes Nigel Williamson). At the end of 1989, 1.6 million households were believed to be viewing television without a licence. Another 800,000 households were estimated to be operating colour sets while holding a monochrome licence.

There were now 19.5 million licence holders. The £5 increase in the colour fee in April would be unnecessary if evasion could be stopped. MPs were told that the area with the highest level of evasion was Northern Ireland.

## Sex attacker confined

Ted Adcock, who indecently assaulted two female members of staff at Durham prison where he was being held awaiting sentence for indecently assaulting Veronique Marot, a marathon runner, last month, was put on probation for three years yesterday on condition he is treated on a secure ward at a mental hospital. Magistrates at Bedlington, Northumberland, were told that Adcock, a bachelor aged 58, of Bedlington, admitted all three assaults.

## Ford strike spreads

The wildest strike by Ford craftsmen spread last night as workers snubbed union officials and continued their unofficial dispute in defiance of the company's 18.2 per cent two-year wage deal (Kevin Eason writes). About 150 maintenance men walked out at Dagenham in Essex, joining 550 craftsmen at Halewood, Merseyside, who have been on strike for more than two weeks.

## Airlines seek redress

Airlines are preparing to claim compensation through the courts for losses incurred as a result of hoax bomb warnings or disruption to services by unruly passengers (Harvey Elliott writes). British Airways is demanding up to £20,000 for a five-hour delay to a Geneva-Heathrow flight when two passengers, stuck in a traffic, allegedly rang the airline to say there was a bomb on board. Britannia, who diverted a flight when a man became violent, are seeking £1,400.

## Police leak inquiry

London police and the Police Complaints Authority have set up a leak inquiry into how BBC television received details of a report prepared by Northampton police critical of the police handling of the demonstration outside News International's Wapping plant three years ago (Stewart Tendler writes). The inquiry will be carried out by Mr Trevor Morris, chief constable of Hertfordshire, who is scheduled to become an inspector of constabulary next month.

## More mail on Sunday

The introduction of Sunday postal collections is to be speeded up, the Royal Mail said yesterday. The service is being introduced ahead of schedule with the aim of starting collections nationwide by the autumn. Collections will begin in Perth, Glasgow, Inverness, Aberdeen and Carlisle by the end of this month, and in Preston, York, Bolton, Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham in March.

## £1.5m pools winner

A plumber who earns £300 a week was yesterday presented with a cheque for £1,505,443, Britain's biggest pools win, by Jerry Hall the model. Mr Alan Hepden, aged 35, of Witney, Oxfordshire, won the Littlewoods jackpot thanks to a 94th minute equalizer by Reading in their FA Cup tie against Newcastle on Saturday. At a reception at the Savoy Hotel, London, Mr Hepden, who is unmarried, said: "I will be back at work on Monday — clients are depending on me."

## Polaris submarines face reactor checks

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A team of "troubleshooters" was yesterday checking the Resolution Class Polaris ballistic missile submarines after the discovery of a hairline crack in the primary cooling system of one of the Royal Navy's oldest nuclear-powered boats.

Since the fault was found on HMS *Warspite*, a Valiant Class submarine, during a refit, the overriding concern has been to clear the Polaris boats because of the need to maintain a non-stop patrol cycle.

With one submarine in refit and one out on patrol, the team of engineers went to Faslane on the Clyde, home of the Polaris boats, to check the other two submarines, one of which is "working up" to take over patrol duties. It was emphasized that although all four Polaris submarines would have to be checked, that would not affect the Royal Navy's guarantee of having at least one Polaris boat on patrol for 365 days of the year. The submarine now on patrol would be checked when it returned to Faslane.

It was believed that the fault on *Warspite*, the second oldest in the fleet of 20 nuclear-powered submarines, was probably age-related.

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# Private hospitals charge £7 a plaster and £2 an aspirin

By David Sapsed

A private hospital patient was charged £168 for a cottonwool swab, another £7 for a plaster, and a third £68 for an injection, costing less than £4, a report disclosed yesterday.

The report was the result of a survey by Western Provident Association (WPA), which said some hospitals have been adding up to 2,500 per cent to bills in "invisible charges", mainly for drugs and medical supplies.

The medical director of the British United Provident Association (Bupa), the country's largest private health-care organization, agrees that private hospitals "have an excessively high mark-up" for drugs and dressings. Yet it was a Bupa hospital that supplied the £168 swab.

The survey discovered that other independent hospitals charged almost £7 for disposable razors valued at 7p; £2 for an aspirin, and £4 for a 25p pair of surgeon's gloves. Two patients were overcharged £800 for their rooms.

Mr Julian Stainton, managing director of WPA, a Bristol-based medical insurance company with half a million subscribers, said: "There is a fantastic disparity between charges. Private hospitals can charge whatever they want; we think that they should be obliged to display a tariff."

Mr Stainton believes high prices are being charged for "invisible" to keep down room charges. WPA cited Bupa figures showing that while the price of a room was

nearly two and a half times what it was in 1980, there had been a ninefold increase in the cost of "invisibles".

Mr Stainton said he had queried the £168 charge for an item listed simply as "swab - any size" on a bill from the Bupa hospital at Roundhay Hall, Leeds; but could not establish whether it was for one swab or more. On the same £50,000 bill for a heart patient, swabs were also charged at £42 and £121. Bupa was unable to explain the disparity, but said "every now and again errors do occur".

AMI, an American-owned group that recorded a £20 million profit last year, was charging £1 for each suture at one London hospital and £4.47 at another, the survey - commissioned in the wake of subscribers' complaints about rising premiums - said.

"No reason is ever given for these discrepancies," Mr Stainton said. He added that at least 700 hospital invoices a day needed investigation because of what appeared to be blatant overcharging.

The Independent Hospitals' Association, however, said that while the WPA's examples were "obviously unjustified and wrong", it considered them isolated and misleading.

Mr Tony Byrne, chief executive, said: "Organizations such as Bupa and PPF negotiate their prices directly with independent hospitals, while WPA does not. It is possible that one or two may have

submitted exaggerated claims but this is not the norm."

In a letter obtained by *The Times*, Dr Eric Blackadder, Bupa's group medical director, says: "We have found that not only do private hospitals have an excessively high mark-up, sometimes 200 or 300 per cent, but the quantities are also excessive."

"I am afraid the only thing we can do is to check meticulously a sample of hospital bills and query high mark-ups. A 100 per cent mark-up might be reasonable to cover the cost of pharmacy, administrative, storage and other costs, but a factor of five or even tenfold is not acceptable."

The cost of the National Health Service is expected to rise by 50 per cent within 40 years, solely because of the increase in the number of elderly people, according to a report published yesterday (Our Social Services Correspondent writes).

By 2028, there are expected to be seven million men and 8.6 million women over 60, compared with 4.8 million and 6.7 million in 1988. The biggest expanding age group is the over 85s, which will increase from 191,000 men and 589,000 women in 1988 to a projected 461,000 men and 895,000 women by 2028.

A model prepared by the Institute of Actuaries suggests that the cost of health care, now about £20 billion, would rise to £30 billion in 2028 for the same level of services at constant prices.

## Tribute to 'father of the lions'



Miss Virginia McKenna and her husband Mr Bill Travers with a drawing of George Adamson, the conservationist known as "father of the lions", who was murdered by poachers in Kenya last

August. They hope to produce a limited edition of 850 prints of the work by Gary Hodges. The proceeds will go to a fund for the preservation of the Kenya national park in Kenya which was founded by Mr

Adamson. Miss McKenna, who starred as Mr Adamson's wife Joy in the film *Born Free*, was among the speakers at a memorial service for Mr Adamson in London yesterday.

## PORTFOLIO

### Winner to buy new car

The winner of today's Portfolio Platinum, Mrs Mabel Elizabeth Rose, will spend her £2,000 prize money on a new car.

"My husband is partly disabled, so it would be very useful to have a car with power steering," Mrs Rose, aged 62, of Cowling near Keighley, West Yorkshire, said. "We often go out for the day in the Yorkshire Dales and have holidays in Scotland."

Mrs Rose and her husband Felix, who are both retired school teachers, have been entering the competition since it started.

### Charities gain from art award

The best of student art is to benefit two charities in a £25,000 award scheme launched at the Royal College of Art yesterday (Simon Tait writes).

The Contemporary View Awards for 1990, an exhibition of 180 of the best pieces, will be mounted at the RCA next November, judged by a panel of art critics, scholars and artists.

The works will then be auctioned for up to £200,000 in aid of the British Teenage Cancer Appeal and the Royal College of Art Student Fund by Christie's, donating its services.

The winner will receive £15,000, with £10,000 going to the winning college.

## Legal fight on Clarke reforms

By Jill Sherman  
Social Services Correspondent

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, was accused in the High Court yesterday of "jumping the gun" in spending millions of pounds of public money on health service reforms before legislation had been introduced.

A group of leading hospital consultants led by Professor Harry Keen of Guy's Hospital, is seeking a court declaration that preparatory work for setting up National Health Service trusts is unlawful. The doctors are also seeking a court order to prevent further preparation going ahead.

Professor Keen said yesterday that he had the backing of 3,000 consultants who have pledged more than £250,000 to fund the legal action.

Already, 79 institutions including Guy's Hospital, are preparing applications to set up trusts. The Government has spent £85 million in the current financial year and plans to spend a further £300 million from April to introduce key changes, such as self-governing hospitals. However, the National Health Service and Community Care Bill is unlikely to receive Royal Assent before July, nine months before the April 1991 date set for its introduction.

Mr James Goudie QC, appearing for Professor Keen, told the court that the "first wave" of self-governing hospitals would virtually be created by the time the Bill became law. "The constitutional principle - legislation first, implementation second - will be turned on its head."

The minister and the health authorities were "seriously misdirected" in preparing applications for a new status for which no legislative recognition yet existed, he said. The hearing continues today.

## Door opens to more operations on unborn

By Thomson Prestice  
Science Correspondent

Surgeons who performed the world's first heart operation on an unborn baby yesterday that they did so to prevent the almost certain death of the child in the womb.

The baby boy, Michele Vermilio, now aged four weeks, whose parents live near Colchester, Essex, is struggling for life on a ventilator at Guy's Hospital, south-east London. His condition is so serious that the doctors were reluctant to claim that the procedure was a success.

However, they acknowledged that their work may open the way to more such operations on the unborn, some of which might be attempted in early pregnancy.

The baby's father, Mr Bernard Vermilio, a garage owner and racing driver, said he had nothing but praise for the hospital team. "There was never any question of ethics. We wanted to save the baby's life, that's all."

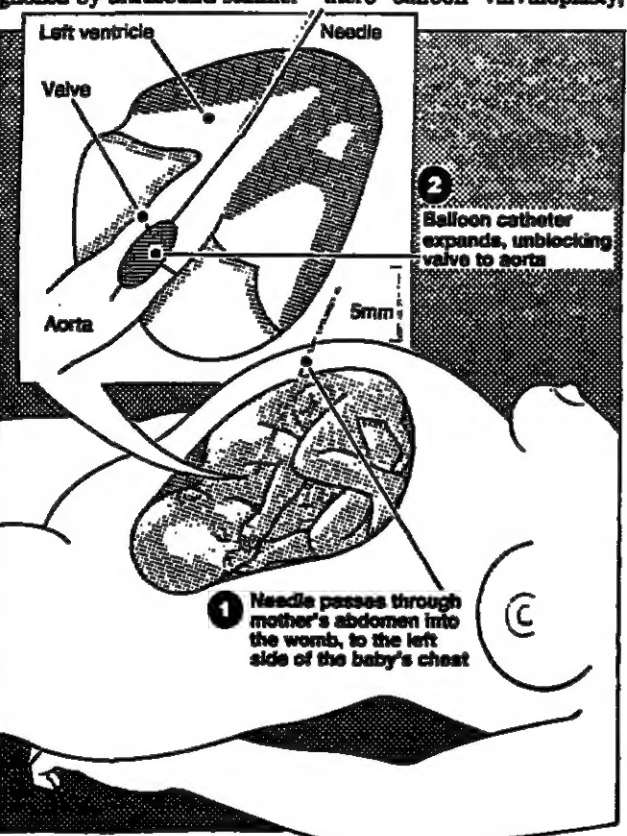
The surgeons fed a tiny balloon, attached to an extremely fine, hollow needle through the mother's abdomen, into the womb and then inflated it to expand an abnormally narrow valve which

was restricting blood flow. The mother, Mrs Ann Vermilio, aged 41, under a light local anaesthetic, was fully conscious.

The baby had been diagnosed by ultrasound scanner

as suffering from critical aortic stenosis, a rare condition which is invariably fatal, even when treated in a similar procedure after birth.

The operation, called in-utero balloon valvuloplasty,



was performed twice. It failed at the first attempt, when the mother was 31 weeks pregnant, because the balloon burst, and was tried again two weeks later.

During the second attempt, the needle was in place for about 30 minutes, but there was no evidence that it caused any pain or distress to the baby, the doctors said. The diameter of the needle was one 38,000th of an inch.

The operation was performed by three specialists at Guy's Hospital: Professor Michael Tynan, professor of paediatric cardiology, Mr Darryl Maxwell, consultant director of the fetal medicine unit, and Dr Lindsey Allan, consultant director of the perinatal cardiology unit.

"The ethical question was whether we should have intervened while the child was still in the womb or waited until it was born," Professor Tynan said at a news conference. "We know that babies with this condition die in the womb, or soon after they are born. We have not had one survivor."

Professor Tynan said he expected that more of the operations on unborn babies would be performed, at Guy's or elsewhere "when all the circumstances are appropriate." Ideally, the procedure

should be carried out at an earlier stage of pregnancy, perhaps at about 20 or 24 weeks, because the condition could be irreparable at a later stage.

"There is nothing to stop more interventions of this kind, but we believe they should only be undertaken when the only alternative appears to be virtually certain death for the baby, and we have a clear objective which we feel we can achieve," he said.

"We have to go very slowly, in a humane way, making sure that parents are aware of everything. We have a responsibility not just to be able to do things like this, but to know whether we should do them. Sometimes we may have to say no."

Mrs Vermilio, in an interview with a local newspaper, said: "It is like a living nightmare. It would be fantastic if we knew for sure he was going to survive. But only time will tell."

Other types of operation of unborn babies have been performed, notably in San Francisco last year where surgeons removed a 24-week foetus from the womb for an hour to repair a ruptured diaphragm which was restricting the development of its lungs. The baby survived.

## Commons secretaries seek pay rises up to 100%

By Tim Jones  
Employment Affairs Correspondent

House of Commons secretaries are demanding salary increases of up to 100 per cent to help them to cope with the cost of living in London and the strain of working in conditions which, they say, would be condemned in industry.

Launching their campaign, the Secretaries and Assistants Council say they believe their salaries should not be left to the generosity of the MPs who employ them. A confidential

survey of 380 secretaries showed pay scales varying from £7,000 to £22,500.

They claim that the present system is open to abuse and could enable some MPs to use part of their £25,000 secretarial and office parliamentary allowance to boost their own £26,701 salaries by paying non-working members of their families.

The survey found 17 per cent earn less than £10,000 a year, nearly 20 per cent from £10,000 to £12,000, 28 per cent up to £14,000, 24 per cent up to £16,000 and 11 per cent more than £16,000, although most of the highest paid worked for more than one MP.

Miss Victoria Leach, the council's chairwoman, who works as a personal assistant to Mrs Maria Fyfe, Labour MP for Glasgow, Maryhill, said the pay of parliamentary secretaries was meant to be linked to senior secretaries in the Civil Service earning £15,953 a year. "At present we have a complete lack of employment rights and we need a structure to ensure fair pay," she said.

The £7 billion a year advertising industry is riddled with sexism and many agencies are unwittingly breaking sex discrimination laws, according to a report published by the Institute

of Practitioners in Advertising (Richard Evans writes).

Women executives are encouraged to dress provocatively for customers, some have been taken off accounts after refusing sexual advances by clients and others regularly face more subtle forms of discrimination, prejudice and chauvinism, the report said.

But chief executives of most advertising agencies genuinely believe their companies are meritocratic and fair to women employees, according to *Women in Advertising*, prepared for the Institute by Marilyn Baxter of Saatchi and Saatchi.

## Closure threat

## Need for vets may save two schools

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

Plans to close Glasgow and Cambridge veterinary schools are certain to be shelved after the publication of a report of a government investigation which says that the need for vets is substantially greater than earlier estimates.

The latest report, by a committee under the chairmanship of Dr Ewan Page, vice-chancellor of Reading University, says that rather than restrict the number of vets being trained in Britain to 335, universities should produce a core of at least 400.

The six veterinary schools - Cambridge, Glasgow, Bristol, Liverpool, Edinburgh and the Royal Veterinary College - should impose an annual fee surcharge of £500 for each student if they want to recruit more than 400 undergraduates a year between them, the report says.

If a school had a core intake of 65 students it could expand its admissions by 5 if it charged all students £500 a year each. Funds for this surcharge could come from special government loans, or sponsorship from veterinary practices and pharmaceutical companies.

Sir William Fraser, principal of Glasgow University, said he looked forward to an early decision from the Universities Funding Council (UFC). "I would also like to see an explanation as to why vet students should be singled out for special fee-surcharges," he said.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, welcomed the report's findings. Significantly he said that except in unusual circumstances the Government would no longer take

part in manpower reviews. That means that when the UFC considers the Page report it will be hard to insist that the two veterinary schools close, as recommended last year by the Riley report into veterinary education.

Professor Lawson Soulsby, head of the Cambridge veterinary school, said that although admissions were restricted to no more than 50 students a year the school could admit 65 with no additional expenditure.

"Since we need more vets not fewer the logical thing would be to leave the six schools in place rather than spend money on closing down two and expanding the other four," he said.

Although the number of veterinary students admitted

● Vet students should be charged £500 each per year ●

to universities is almost certain to increase, Professor Soulsby said it would be no easier for sixth formers to get in.

The review of veterinary manpower and education, commissioned by the Department of Education and Science and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, contains projections of the supply and demand of veterinary manpower to the end of the century, and finds it likely that there will be a significant shortfall in the number Britain needs. In the short term increased numbers of qualified overseas vets could help to fill the gap.

*Review of Veterinary Manpower and Education* (MAFF Publications, London SE99 7TP, £5).

## Judgement reserved in wrong-horse case

A High Court judge in London yesterday reserved judgement in the case of Fondu, the 26,000-guinea racehorse which never won a race.

The horse's owners, Mr Thomas Naughton and Mr Vincent Kilkenny, had high hopes when they bought the colt at Newmarket in 1981. However, they later discovered a mix-up at a stud farm had caused them to buy the wrong animal, whose value fell to only £1,500.

By that time Fondu had finished as an also-ran in all his six races.

Mr Naughton and Mr Kilkenny are suing for damages after the High Court ruled they were entitled to compensation.

Mr Adrian Maxwell, the man's former trainer, told the court yesterday how he was attracted by a foal out of the mare Habenna, sired by Habint - both successful racers, and had recommended the purchase. He said the mare

was more important than the stallion in breeding racehorses.

However Fondu had assumed the wrong identity because of a mix-up at the Airlie Stud in Airlie, Lucan, Co Dublin.

As a result, the colt was wrongly described at Tattersalls Premier Yearling Sales in Newmarket on September 30, 1981.

He turned out to be a colt out of an unraced mare, Moon Min, sired by an unfashionable stallion, First Landing.

Mr Naughton of Pickwick Place, Harrow-on-the-Hill, north-west London, and Mr Kilkenny of Manor House, Blechnington, Oxford, are suing Mr Gay O'Callaghan, who sold the colt.

But both Mr O'Callaghan of Old Town House, Shanballymore, Mallow, Co Cork, and the Airlie Stud dispute how much compensation is owed.

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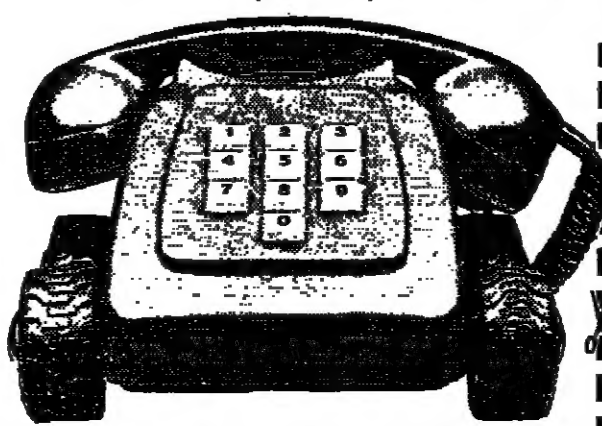
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# Owen urges withdrawal of American forces from Germany

By Philip Webster  
Chief Political Correspondent

Dr David Owen called on Nato yesterday to announce that American forces will be withdrawn from a united Germany while remaining at a reduced level elsewhere in Europe.

Dr Owen, the Social Democrat leader, predicted that, although the constitutional process would take longer, East and West Germany would be united by the end of the year because of economic realities and the will of the people.

He said the West should encourage a united Germany either to be in Nato or the Western European Union and not to accept neutrality as the price for union.

To that end, Nato should redefine the United States' role and forestall potential Soviet resentment by announcing that Germany to be united by the decision of its citizens, Nato would not seek to deploy forces from countries outside Europe on German soil.

That would not be a green light for Britain, Belgium and The Netherlands to withdraw their forces, although some reductions could make sense.

Dr Owen, the former Labour foreign secretary, was speaking to the Royal United Institute for Defence Studies on a political and strategic perspective of Western Europe's security situation in the wake of changes in the Warsaw Pact, which he admitted ran counter to the

Delors vision of a federal Europe. In remarks that increased the distance between Dr Owen and the Liberal Democrats, and took him closer to the Conservative position, he said a diverse and pluralist Europe that worked for progressive union while respecting nationhood would make a lasting contribution to international peace.

The Government was driving Britain further apart from its partners, he said.

Dr Owen added that a decision not to deploy American or Canadian forces on German soil should be a voluntary one taken by Nato alone as a contribution to the stable, progressive development of Europe. He predicted that within five years the US military presence in Europe

would be reduced by two thirds to 100,000 personnel, but it was strongly in Europe's interest that it remained.

It had always been a Soviet objective to have a neutral Germany and no American forces in Europe. Western Europe could never concede to the Soviets that the stationing of Soviet forces in central Europe was equivalent to American forces in Western Europe.

"We are entitled in Western Europe to bridge the Atlantic if we so wish. There is no equivalent ocean dividing the USSR from the rest of Europe," he said.

However, he said it would be understandable if the Soviet Union if a united Germany were to ask for the stationing of American troops on its

territory while it was withdrawing its forces at the request of fellow Warsaw Pact members.

He said there was no strategic logic that said that a united Germany without American should also be decoupled from the Nato or WEU nuclear deterrence strategy.

As long as the Soviets remained a nuclear power, there was every argument for France and Britain to retain nuclear weapons. A united Germany in Nato would rely on nuclear and conventional deterrence. As a WEU member, it would be able to ask France and Britain to deploy nuclear-carrying aircraft from German airfields. Dr Owen also suggested that Britain put on hold the development of

the next generation of battle tank and anti-tank systems. He said that Nato would have to look more ruthlessly at specialization between member states.

Dr Owen said that while his perspectives ran counter to the Delors vision, they would contribute to deeper European unity. Nato had shown that on national security an integrated command structure could be developed while maintaining a sense of nationhood.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, accused Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday of "clinging to the apron strings of the Atlantic relationship and missing the opportunities of the new Europe".

Leading article, page 13

## Start of new service lowered prosecution standards, Bar says

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The standard of prosecutions has deteriorated markedly since the start of the Crown Prosecution Service three years ago, the Criminal Bar Association said yesterday.

In evidence to the Home Affairs Committee, which is investigating the service, the association said that a poll of its members in the South-east, particularly London, found that the "system is significantly less efficient than it was".

In a separate submission, however, the Law Society praises the achievements of the service although it does criticize some aspects. It says the CPS's own core of prosecutors is providing "an excellent level of representation in court".

Nevertheless, the Criminal Bar Association says that it is barristers who "are at the sharp end of presenting the prosecution case in court".

They "are in the best position to know what omissions and errors they succeed in disguising (in addition to those which surface) and how narrowly legal disasters are sometimes avoided".

The opinions of barristers surveyed are "most disturbing not merely in their content but in the extent to which they are so widely held", the association says.

"Of the options given, all barring a small fraction settled for 'worse' than before 1985. The fraction settled for 'no different'".

Barristers welcomed the thinking behind the Crown Prosecution Service, however, and did say that a reputation

for greater independence from the police was growing.

Even so, the problems of the service were still extensive. Nearly 95 per cent of barristers polled answered unfavourably as to whether the standard of preparation of cases had fallen and identified a list of problems: failure to spot evidential problems; "embarrassing" applications for adjournments; failure to act on counsel's written advice; poor drafting of indictments.

It was a commonly held view, the association says, that Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) staff were so inexperienced that real problems were inevitable.

It was also commonly held that deterioration in prosecuting standards "is most noticeable in the largest bracket of prosecutions - what might loosely be called 'the lower end'".

There was a belief, the association says, that a less gloomy view would have come from outside London about the CPS in the regions.

The barristers also took the view that there had been a change in the way their role was regarded, with an "overwhelming view" that counsel was no longer free to exercise his discretion over the conduct of the case.

The most prevalent problems included resistance to counsel's view of the merits of a particular case in terms of a "local policy" adopted in relation to some kind of offence or method of disposal.

In separate evidence, the criminal law committee of the

Law Society says that the general view is that the CPS's own core of experienced prosecutors was providing "an excellent level of representation at court".

There was evidence that certain tribunals "remain hostile in principle to the introduction of the CPS", it says.

"Such unjustified intolerance should not reflect upon the steadily improving reputation of crown prosecutors throughout the country."

The Law Society says, however, that there are problems over the provision of police of adequate papers on time for cases to be presented at court.

Despite improvements, there were still pockets of inefficiency where there was inadequate advance information or commitment papers not served on time.

A A stipendiary magistrate has criticised both the police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mr Derrick Fairclough, stipendiary magistrate for Manchester and a Recorder at Liverpool Crown Court, said yesterday: "Between them the police and CPS cannot ensure that antecedents are updated as a matter of routine."

In the new edition of the CPS Journal, Mr Fairclough says: "Hurried telephone inquiries to police headquarters do not necessarily produce the desired information."

Mr Fairclough says he was promised up-to-date antecedents when a new computer was introduced at Manchester, but records were still missing from antecedents.

## Veteran teddy bears await a good home

PETER TRENNOR



Some of the 75 elderly teddy bears to be auctioned at Christie's, London, today, with Miss Philippa Sparrier, Christie's teddy specialist.

## MoD to be sued over bomb test

By Kerry Gill

A former Royal Air Force electrician, who served on Christmas Island during nuclear tests in 1957, is to sue the Ministry of Defence after contracting leukaemia.

Mr John Hall, aged 51, who spent four months on the Pacific island, believes his recently diagnosed condition is a direct result of being exposed to radiation during the tests.

His case is to be handled by Mr Mark Mildred, the lawyer involved in legal proceedings over the Zeebrugge and King's Cross disasters. The costs will be met by the British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association.

Details of Mr Hall's action and the association's struggle to get compensation for victims are to be disclosed at a press conference in the House of Commons today.

The association has campaigned to make the Government recognize that its members were affected by exposure to radiation during nuclear tests in the late 1950s.

## Servant's kilt fetches £10,000

**SALEROOM**  
by Sarah Jane Checkland  
Art Market Correspondent

The scarlet plaid kilt, tartan underpants and stockings once worn by Queen Victoria's faithful if notoriously charming servant John Brown sold for £10,120 at Sotheby's, London, yesterday.

They were bought by three men wearing similar Highland dress and representing the Scottish Tartan Museum at Comrie, Tayside.

After watching the sale of over 300 teddy bears, dolls and toys, their representative, the magnificently bearded Dr Gordon Teall of Teallah, took bidding to £3,000 above the upper estimate.

The most intriguing garment was Mr Brown's underpants, equipped with special back-flap and front fly. Dr Teall said: "Queen Victoria insisted that anyone who worked for her and wore a kilt should wear underpants. She was very particular because it can be very embarrassing when someone wearing a kilt sits down."

After Brown's death in the 1920s, a trunk of Highland dress was sent from Balmoral Castle to Edinburgh, with instructions that it should be disposed of, but not by auction. Yesterday's vendor in-

herited the clothes from his father, a bagpipe-maker who had been given the pick of the contents.

A crucified Marilyn Monroe is on offer at Art 90, the contemporary art fair that opened at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London, yesterday. Displayed on a background of red satin, and costing £2,200, she is a sculpture by Saskia de Boer, and a highlight at the Nicholas Treadwell Gallery stand.

Other attractions at the fair, which brings together the work of more than 200 artists, include bold landscape paintings by David Macfarlane, at £400 to £1,200, and large abstracts by Gail Dickerson, the young Royal College of Art graduate who has been chosen as the "Young Artist in Focus".

To encourage corporate buyers, the fair includes a view of the Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte collection, compiled by the accountancy

firm over the past five years. Mr Phil Collins, the company's collector, said: "It is an alternative to the Saatchi approach. You don't have to spend a lot of money if you trust your judgement."

Prices at the fair are mainly between £50 to £1,500, although a Francis Bacon will cost £40,000.

Christie's auctioned a selection of British decorative arts from the 1890s.

Top price was £6,050 for a glass and forged iron console table by Danny Laine. An elegant welded steel "spine" chair by Andre du Breuil fetched £1,320, while a pair of candelabra forged from brass pipes and glass bottles by Tim Shaw sold for £2,090.

Sotheby's recorded a world record for Miles Birket Foster, the Victorian painter. His "The Swing", showing children playing on a tree, sold anonymously for £41,800 (estimate £15,000 to £25,000).

Bonhams dispersed the contents of the studio of the eccentric British artist Betty Swanwick with great success. Her "Women preparing for a Banquet" fetched £8,250, while her "Leda and the Swan" went for £3,520.

## Stuntman awarded £251,000

A stuntman whose career was finished when harness wires broke during a simulated flight sequence on the film set of *Superman IV* was awarded damages of £251,148 in the High Court yesterday.

Mr John Lees, who suffered fractures to both heels and his left ankle in the 25th fall at Elstree Studios in 1986, said later he was disappointed with the award and that of costs against the producer, London Cannon Films.

Mr Lees, aged 47, of Moor End Farm, Norton, near Halifax, West Yorkshire, said he could no longer groom or ride his two horses.

## Post mortem

A coroner at Ashington, Northumberland, ordered a new post mortem on the body of Mrs Doris Waldo, who drowned in a whirlpool bath in Portugal. Her husband, a police officer, was acquitted of murder by a Portuguese court.

## Pensions libel

Mr Ted Barham, treasurer of the Greater London Pensioners' Association, and his wife, Alice, received unspecified libel damages in the High Court yesterday against the *Daily Mirror*, which said in an article that they were in favour of private pensions.

## Knitwear loss

Up to 1,000 jobs could be at risk in the Paisley Hyster Group, one of Leicestershire's biggest knitwear firms, which announced yesterday that it had called in the receivers.

## Nurse penalty

John Smith, of Dudley, West Midlands, a charge nurse, who was jailed for indecency with a sub-normal boy aged 12, was ordered to be struck off the nursing register yesterday.

## PR resigns

Miss Lindsay MacFarlane, a South Yorkshire police press officer who won her job back after being accused of leaking secrets after the Hillsborough disaster, resigned yesterday.

## Compensation changes will rule out 9,000 crime victims

By Quentin Cowry, Home Affairs Correspondent

At least 9,000 victims of such crimes as mugging or aggravated burglary will be deprived of compensation this year because of a "streamlining" of the government-funded Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, it emerged yesterday.

Under the revised scheme, due to come into effect today, the minimum limit for compensation will be raised from £550 to £750. Other changes, though, will permit claims from victims previously excluded, such as train drivers who suffer shock after railway suicides and unmarried people whose partners are killed in violent crime.

The Home Office, which announced the changes in December, believes the moves will help to solve chronic delays in processing claims and concentrate resources on the most deserving cases. Some 96,000 cases are outstanding, a backlog of over two years' work.

The charity Victim Support, which strongly opposes the increase in the lower limit, said about one in three of those now eligible for compensation will be excluded.

That was confirmed by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, the scheme's administrator, which said that 37 per cent of the 38,830

payouts made in 1988-89 were under £800.

Miss Helen Reeves, the charity's director, said restricting eligibility to the scheme would undermine public confidence in it and do nothing to improve efficiency.

The move, she added, was particularly regrettable as many of the "lower limit" claims related to thefts, street robberies and muggings - crimes which were often not cleared up and caused widespread public fear and anger.

She added: "Compensation is an important way of acknowledging that such crime is not acceptable. The gesture is as important as the value of the money involved."

The charity said some of the smallest payouts involved surprisingly vicious incidents.

The change also encouraged victims to submit inflated claims. "It's disgraceful. In the name of efficiency the Government has squeezed out a large number of potential claimants."

He added: "This comes on top of changes introduced a few years ago which mean that victims who are unemployed have their benefits cut if they get compensation."

The scheme's other changes, described as a streamlining by Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, will allow the board's junior staff to deal with claims which are obviously ineligible and will restrict the number of cases referred to oral hearings.

Mr Sheerman: "Change will encourage inflated claims."



Mr Sheerman: "Change will encourage inflated claims."

Recent examples included:

● A Second World War veteran who received severe bruising after being thrown from his wheelchair by a burglar who held a cushion over his face in an apparent attempt to smother him (£600 compensation);

● Six women social club workers held hostage at knifepoint during an armed robbery (£650 each);

● Young man slashed across the face with a broken glass in an unprovoked attack in a nightclub (£650).

Mr Barry Sheerman, a Labour home affairs spokesman, said the Government should have cut the payment threshold not increased it.

The change also encouraged victims to submit inflated claims. "It's disgraceful. In the name of efficiency the Government has squeezed out a large number of potential claimants."

He added: "This comes on top of changes introduced a few years ago which mean that victims who are unemployed have their benefits cut if they get compensation."

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Mr Sheerman: "Change will encourage inflated claims."

## Convictions prompt call for UDA ban

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

There were renewed calls yesterday for the "loyalist" paramilitary Ulster Defence Association to be banned after the jailing of four of its members for up to 10 years on charges of blackmailing and extortion.

Dr Brian Feeney, the North Belfast Social Democrat and Labour councillor, said the failure of the Government to outlaw the UDA gave the impression that crimes by "loyalists" were in some way less reprehensible than crimes by nationalists.

He said he was determined to persuade the Northern Ireland Office of what he called the "cowardice" of its position on the UDA, which amounted to an acceptance of the organization's public front

that it did not represent a criminal organization.

"The UDA is a criminal conspiracy," he said, "and any minister who has got any integrity should ban it." Dr Feeney said that the argument by the Northern Ireland Office that banning the UDA would simply drive it underground also applied to the Provisional IRA, which, by that logic, should also be legalized.

The UDA has never been banned since its foundation in 1971, in spite of its having been organized on military lines and its members having often incurred sentences for terrorist offences, including sectarian murder.

Mr John Cope, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office with responsibility for

security, was not prepared to discuss Dr Feeney's remarks. His office said the Government deplored criminal activity of whatever sort and reiterated that proscription of the UDA was constantly under review.

Dr Feeney's comments came after the jailing, by Belfast Crown Court, of four senior UDA men, including the organization's commander in south Belfast, after the men admitted blackmailing two Ulster building firms for nearly £40,000 over a five-year period.

John McDonald of Lockley Park, the south Belfast commander, and David "Arty" Fee of Chief Street in the Shankill Road, each received 10-year sentences.

Andy Aiken of Fourthriver Way and John Campbell of Denmark Street were each jailed for eight years.

The four men had pleaded guilty to a total of 60 offences committed between May 1983 and December 1988.

Their activities had been monitored by the RUC's anti-racketeering squad during a three-year operation.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Northern Ireland is to send a file on the death of Seamus Duffy, aged 15, who was killed by a police plastic bullet in rioting last August, police sources said.

The move marks the culmination of an investigation led by a chief superintendent in the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

## MPs demand law against contamination of land

By Sheila Gann  
Political Reporter

The Government has been accused of failing to take action over poisoned industrial sites endangering public health and the environment.

The Commons environment committee found that many dangerous sites are left untouched for years, and that action is taken only when a planning application is made.

The criticisms, coming after a report saying that waste sites may be "a toxic time bomb", will embarrass Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The report, published yesterday, says the Department of Environment gives too little weight to the problems of land contaminated by industrial processes, such as old gas works, oil

refineries and chemical works. "By defining contaminated land narrowly and solely in relation to end-use, the Department of the Environment may be underestimating a genuine environmental problem and misdirecting effort and resources."

The report adds: "There is land in the UK which is contaminated and a threat to health and the environment, both on site and in the surrounding area. The primary focus of central and local government activity must be upon land which is a hazard to health or the environment."

The MPs say Britain has been spared some of the worst effects of uncontrolled dumping. But there should be no complacency over the management of toxic waste.

They say the Department holds little information about polluted land,

and are concerned about the adequacy of its estimates. Their report also backs up other warnings about the shortage of pollution inspectors.

Among the recommendations are a law to prevent companies polluting the soil, and to force owners to disclose information about contamination of land when they sell it; local registers of contaminated sites, and new powers for the National Rivers Authority to scrutinize planning applications for poisoned sites.

● Sir Hugh Rossi, chairman of the select committee on the environment, yesterday called for an end to the dispute over whether to build a long sea outfall at Morecambe Bay, Lancashire, to combat sewage problems on Britain's most polluted coastline (Mark Souther writes).

Lancashire County Council and the

Save Morecambe Bay Campaign, on one hand, and North West Water Company and Blackpool District Council, on the other, gave evidence to the committee yesterday. Sir Hugh described the stalemate between them as "a nonsense", although he emphasized that he was not biased for or against the outfall.

The North West Water Company is planning a three mile outfall costing £50 million at Fleetwood to solve pollution problems but opponents say that pumping untreated sewage into the Lune Deep, however far out, will damage the marine environment and affect the jobs of fishermen.

House of Commons Environment Committee first report: *Contaminated Land*, Stationery Office, £11.50 net.

Photograph, page 10

## Green group calls for stricter control of North Sea dumping

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

More stringent monitoring of marine life and tighter control of marine outfalls of waste in the North Sea were called for yesterday by the Marine Forum for Environmental Issues.

The group is seeking action by the Government after analysing studies from 24 expert groups into the types of waste dumping and their impact on fisheries, seals and dolphins, birdlife and the marine plants and microscopic organisms that form the basis of the food chain.

The studies covered dis-

charges into the North Sea from rivers, ship and oil platform operations, dumping and dredging by vessels and contamination from airborne pollutants.

The forum's report, published yesterday, includes an investigation into the impact of sea level rises expected from global warming.

Presenting the findings to a meeting in London, held in conjunction with the Royal Geographical Society, Lord Cranbrook, chairman of the forum, said: "We must stop using the North Sea as if it was

a hole in the ground. The good neighbourly principle also applies because the North Sea does not belong to Britain."

He said there must be a halt to the disposal of injurious substances. But it was not possible to pursue a policy of zero discharges or to cease all economic activities in the North Sea.

The report prepared for the third International North Sea Conference, to be held at The Hague next month, concludes that a balance needs to be found to maintain essential ecological processes.



# NUT faces demand for debate on homosexual rights

By David Tytler, Education Editor

A one-day conference for lesbian and homosexual teachers has been demanded by left-wing members of Britain's largest classroom union. The call is likely to embarrass leaders of the National Union of Teachers anxious to present a more moderate image.

The union's branch in Islington, north London, has put down a motion for the annual conference in Bournemouth at Easter calling on the national executive to defend the rights of lesbians and homosexuals by the "positive representation of homosexuality".

In an attack on heterosexuals, the branch calls on the union to train members not to adopt "heterosexism" which discriminates against homosexuals. The union is asked to support homosexual teachers and to hold an "annual one-day conference exclusively on lesbian and gay issues in education".

A motion from central Nottinghamshire, Oxford, Hillingdon and Leeds says that the self-management of schools could result in the victimization of women, homosexual, black and dis-

abled teachers. The branches say that to protect them ways should be found to increase their number on the national executive. Regular information, including posters, should be sent to schools.

Teachers in Hackney, east London, want the union to campaign for the repeal of Clause 28 which prevents the active promotion of homosexuality by local authorities, saying that "every school contains a large number of pupils who identify themselves or who will come to identify themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual".

Their motion asks the union to "defend vigorously any members who may be victimized for constructive and truthful teaching about lesbian and gay sexuality and lifestyles".

Other motions condemn the Government's requirement that all state schools should have a daily Christian assembly, saying that it has led to demands, particularly from Muslims, for separate schools. Lambeth, Islington, and the Inner London Teachers' Association are asking that the union defends teachers who

are "victimized by practising anti-racist education".

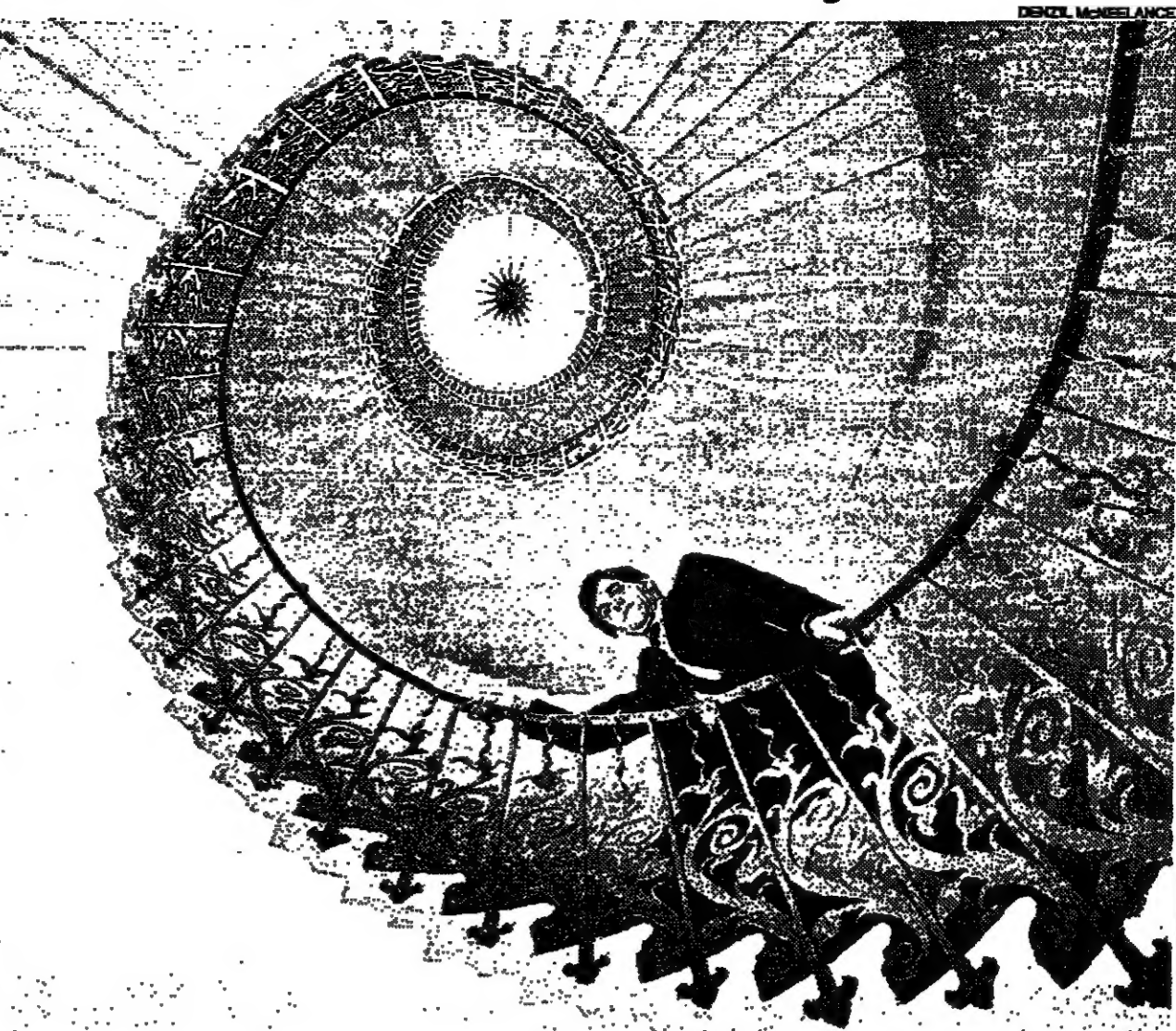
Branches are being asked to vote on which of the hundreds of motions that have been tabled should appear on the final agenda. The union's national executive is likely to intervene to prevent the more extreme being discussed.

Nearly half as many more parents are applying to send their children to schools that have opted out of local authority control than at the same time last year, according to figures released yesterday. At present there are 1.6 applications for every place.

Grant-maintained schools report that applications have risen by an average 45 per cent at the 32 schools which will be running this September. This time last year few schools knew whether they would be allowed to opt out and many of them were facing an uncertain future either through planned closure or amalgamation.

Scotland's colleges of education are to increase their intake for teacher training courses by 36 per cent in the next academic year, the Scottish Office said.

## Spiral eye view of a royal house



Mr Richard Ormond, of the National Maritime Museum, on the Tulip Staircase at the restored Queen's House, Greenwich.

## Council on the spot over exam mistake

The leader of a Manchester council yesterday publicly apologized for a printing error in an 11-plus examination paper as the authority faced legal action over the mistake.

The exam, sat by 2,600 Manchester children, was ruled invalid because some children were given 40 minutes to take the test and others 50 minutes.

The test was ruled invalid by the education committee last month. Labour members are convinced that, if the results are allowed to stand, aggrieved parents will complain to the Ombudsman and be prepared to go to court. The Tory group, which controls the council, believes that if a new exam is set, legal action will be taken by other parents.

The full council has already reversed the education committee's decision, but the meeting ran out of time before two Labour amendments could be put, and it will be resumed today.

Edinburgh University's Godfrey Thompson Unit, which set the test, has advised that the length of time allowed would have no effect on the children's scores, but Labour councillors are unconvinced.

Mr Colin Warbrick, the leader of the council, yesterday apologized publicly for the mistake.

## Consumer survey

### Hunt for bargains 'a waste of time'

By Ray Clancy

Clean floors, well-stocked shelves, friendly staff and ample car-parking space are what shoppers want rather than low prices, a consumer survey published today says.

Free shopping bags, environmentally friendly products, exotic produce and late opening are also important but shopping around for savings on well-known brands is usually a waste of time, the survey in *Which?* magazine, published by the Consumers' Association, says.

Every week more than £800 million is spent in Britain on groceries, meat and vegetables, of which 80 per cent goes to supermarkets rather than small shops. More shoppers are using the new supermarkets and hypermarkets which have hardware, gardening, linen and toy sections.

Shoppers also welcome busy changing rooms, lavatories, delicatessen counters, fresh bread baked on the premises, fresh fish counters and seats.

About 75 per cent of shoppers have access to a car and many prefer to drive long distances to out-of-town stores rather than get caught in traffic jams and be unable to find a parking space in the high street.

Hunting for bargains is becoming a trend of the past. "If you are trying to save money on well-known brands you'll have to hunt high and low for a bargain," the magazine says. The survey found that out of 118 cans of baked beans 111 were priced at 26p.

It also found that prices in branches of a single supermarket chain were consistent, whether in Essex, Exeter and Edinburgh. The price of a

shopping basket of 18 everyday items at different supermarket chains varied from £21.38 in Sainsbury's to £22.99 in Sainsbury's.

Cleanliness in supermarkets was the top priority, with an 86 per cent rating from 1,876 shoppers in the nationwide survey. Payment by credit card was the bottom priority, with a 10 per cent score.

A report on the big supermarket chains found:

● Asda had many staffed checkouts, express tills and ample car parking but did not do so well on providing a packing service.

● The Co-op was below average for parking facilities, staffed checkouts and express tills but customers liked stores near their homes.

● Gateway was below average for parking, knowledgeable staff, adequate checkouts and express tills.

● KwikSave was under par on parking, but had helpful, knowledgeable staff and a wide selection of goods and checkouts.

● Sainsbury's had helpful, knowledgeable staff and many checkouts and packers.

● Sainsbury's was above average for a wide selection of products and many checkouts, express tills and packers.

● Tesco was above average for parking facilities and staffed checkouts.

● Waitrose had helpful, knowledgeable staff and adequate express tills and packers.

● The average cost of a wedding in Britain has risen to £6,769, according to a survey of 1,184 couples about to be married carried out by *You and Your Wedding* magazine (Robin Young writes).

## Vitamin pills no cure for poor diet

Children, pregnant women, the elderly and people on low incomes may not be getting enough vitamins and minerals from their diets, but taking supplement pills is not the answer, according to a report published today in *Which?* magazine (Ray Clancy writes).

Claims that vitamins can cure stress, perk a person up or improve a child's intelligence are misleading and the Government's recommended daily amounts for some vitamins and minerals needs to be reviewed, *Which?* says.

After testing a variety of multivitamins and mineral supplements, the report concludes that it makes more sense to improve or vary diet than to take pills.

"Food gives you a lot of other things you need like fibre and energy, which you won't get from vitamin pills," the report says.

It recommends steaming, not soaking, vegetables, because nutrients are destroyed by boiling and vitamin C dissolves in water.

It says bottles of milk should be put away as soon as possible because exposure to light destroys some vitamins; and recommends using left-over cooking water from vegetables and cooking juices from meat to make soup or gravy.

It says those who choose to take multivitamins should not exceed the dose recommended on the package. "Excessive

amounts of vitamins and minerals could be harmful."

● Quality programmes such as drama, plays and investigative journalism are likely to be replaced by cheap quiz shows and imported soap operas under the new Broadcasting Bill, according to research on the future of television published in *Which?* today.

"There is a danger that the Government's review of broadcasting may push broadcasting to hunt for safe, mass-appeal programmes that attract the highest ratings and thus the most advertising revenue," the report says.

"This would lead to less change and experimentation in programming and less attention being paid to what viewers want to watch. The pressure in programme-making will be towards what is marketable, like the glossy transatlantic mini/mega series."

The report also warns against an increase in the sponsorship of programmes: "Sponsorship should be carefully controlled. Viewers should not be confused about what is being provided by the programme-maker and the sponsor."

The research also shows that viewers do not want to see more soap operas and comedies. They would rather have more recent films, nature programmes, adventure, leisure and police programmes and less sport, business and finance programmes.

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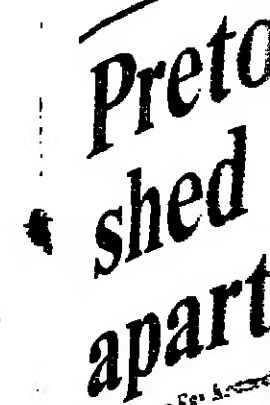
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## WORLD ROLAN

...before electronic...

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# Pretoria moves to shed its image as apartheid capital

From Ray Kennedy in Johannesburg and Gavin Bell in Cape Town

While the focus of political attention on South Africa has shifted to Cape Town, where President de Klerk will re-open Parliament tomorrow with a speech that may clearly outline plans for considerable reform of apartheid, the Pretoria city council has taken a bold decision.

After a heated debate on Tuesday night, it voted to open up its bus services, libraries, swimming pools and angling facilities to all races. It will also seek government permission to open up the central business district and a number of suburbs as "free trade areas".

Under the Group Areas Act, one of the main planks of apartheid, blacks are officially barred from conducting business in most city and town centres. Re-zoning as a "free trade" area means that blacks can openly do business without fear of police harassment or, as many do already, use a token white front.

Mr Jannie van Zyl, a bus driver, was angry and adamant yesterday. "Kaffirs will not get into my bus," he said.

Mr van Zyl, aged 29, is a municipal bus driver in Pretoria, South Africa's administrative capital, and long considered a citadel of conservative Afrikanerdom. He drives his double-decker out of Church Square, dominated by a ponderous statue of Paul Kruger.

"If a kaffir tries to get on my bus, I'll throw him off very quickly," said Mr van Zyl. Half a dozen friends with him agreed unanimously.

Mr Sataar Cassim, chairman of the management committee in Laudium, a segregated Indian district of Pretoria, yesterday described the council's decision as "a bold step for Pretoria but a small step in what was happening in South Africa".

The dated rhetoric aside, the council's move is, in fact, courageous. The white supremacist Conservative Party is strong in the city and in 1987 municipal elections gained 19 seats against the ruling National Party's 23. They probably would have won control if votes in some wards had not been split through the intervention of the extremist Herstigte Nasionale Party.

Tuesday night's vote was 22-19, and the Conservatives had a full house.

Meanwhile Johannesburg, which considers itself far more liberal, voted to declare the entire city a free trade area. Only the four Conservative councillors opposed the motion. It was announced that all the city's bus services would go multiracial within 10 days.

Perhaps more significant than the Pretoria and Johannesburg decisions was the vote by the council at Klerksdorp, a country town in the Western Transvaal about 60 miles from Johannesburg, to scrap racial trading bars. Rural white communities are considered to be the most strongly opposed to reform.

Four councillors voted against the proposal and four in favour. Mr Chris van Eeden, the chairman of the management committee, decided the issue with his casting vote.

He said the decision was based solely on a business and not a political point of view. "There is a very healthy relationship between all the communities of Klerksdorp," he said.

He added: "I believe the opening of the central business district to all races will cultivate that relationship."

In another sign of change in the political climate, President de Klerk yesterday ordered a judicial inquiry into the death of a black man, accused of involvement in guerrilla attacks, who was found hanged in his cell.

No such inquiry had been called after scores of previous incidents in which black activists died while in police custody. According to local newspapers, the young man, Mr Clayton Sithole, was a former lover of the daughter of Nelson Mandela, the jailed black leader, and the father of her child.

Mr Sithole and four other suspected African National Congress guerrillas were arrested on Friday in Soweto, the vast black township outside Johannesburg. Police accused the group of killing 10 people, including two policemen, in attacks with hand grenades and automatic rifles over the past two years.

Police said Mr Sithole was found hanging from a shower pipe on Tuesday in his cell at John Vorster Square, Johannesburg's central police station. It said an investigation into the death had started and would include a post mortem by a state pathologist.

Mrs Audrey Coleman, a prominent human rights activist, welcomed Mr de Klerk's move, saying she could not recall such a swift and emphatic response to any of the scores of other deaths of detainees which she has monitored in recent years.

Local moves towards desegregation, amid increasing activism by the black nationalist movement, have left President de Klerk open to conflicting pressure from the white right wing.

Dr Andries Treurnicht, the leader of the official Opposition, the Conservative Party, told a miners' rally in Johannesburg: "We do not owe the ANC any say in our nation or our land."

The Afrikaner Resistance Movement warned that "all hell will break loose" if Mandela was freed. Mr Eugene Terre Blanche, its leader, evoked images of a nineteenth-century battle against the Zulus when he declared: "We shall fight until our land is as white as it was after Blood River."

# Calabria kidnap victim gains freedom

From Paul Bompard Rome

Church bells rang in Pavia yesterday to celebrate the release of Signor Cesare Casella, who was reunited with his family at the end of one of the longest-running Italian kidnapping sagas on record.

Signor Casella, aged 20, was freed in southern Italy on Tuesday night after being held for 742 days. Flown home in a military aircraft, he told reporters: "I am happy. It was hard. For two years I saw only people wearing hoods. Now I do not know what to say with all these people here."

One of the kidnappers had been kind. "He was a delinquent, too, but he treated me like a dog."

Signor Casella said he had thought he would be killed when his kidnappers moved him from their hide-out in the Aspromonte mountains of Calabria.

Instead, according to a senior police officer, they chained him to a pole from which he managed to free himself and seek help.

Signora Angela Casella, his mother, with whom he had a tearful reunion, became nationally known as "Mother Courage" for her defiance of the 'Ndrangheta, the Calabrian equivalent of the Mafia.

She chained herself to trees and slept in tents in Calabrian mountain towns. At least four other hostages are believed to be held by the same organization in the region.

Signor Casella, whose father has a Citroën dealership in Pavia, was seized there on January 18, 1988. The family paid a ransom of one billion lire (€484,000) in August that year. The kidnappers then made further demands for money.

These were not met. The authorities last year froze the family's assets and sent hundreds of police into the Aspromonte region.

Kidnapping is still believed to be an important source of income for many small towns in Calabria, on the toe of the Italian peninsula, where unemployment is rife and the law is laid down by the 'Ndrangheta rather than local government.

Police estimate that Calabrian gangs are responsible for almost half the abductions in



A mother's joy: Signora Angela Casella in Pavia welcoming home her son, Cesare, held for two years by a kidnapping gang.

Italy. These days they work outside their poor southern region, a move that has more to do with lack of targets than with effective police work.

"There is practically no one left here worth kidnapping," a local builder said. According to a recent survey by a local magazine, Calabrian kidnappers now concentrate their efforts in towns round Milan. But, once kidnapped, victims are habitually hidden away in the Aspromonte.

More than 600 people have been kidnapped in Italy during the past 20 years, most of them in Lombardy.

While more efficient police work has helped diminish the incidence of kidnapping, a hard core of Calabrian kidnappers is still at work. Last year 10 people were kidnapped for ransom, there were 14 the year

before; five of the 24 victims are still in captivity.

Income from ransoms is estimated at about 200 billion lire a year. Much of it is reinvested in building developments around Aspromonte villages. One area — near Locri, renowned as a kidnap

● The family paid a ransom of one billion lire in 1988; more was asked for ●

ping centre — is shamelessly known as the Paul Getty village, after the kidnapping of Paul Getty III in 1973.

Victims may be fewer these days, but ransom demands have kept pace with inflation,

now averaging two billion lire (almost £1 million) and the average term of imprisonment is almost a year, even two years, compared to several months in the late 1970s when kidnappings were more frequent. Between 1977 and 1982 there were, on average, 40 to 50 a year, rather cheaper affairs costing ransom-payers several hundred millions of lire instead of several billion.

Dynamics of the average kidnapping have changed little over the years.

In the case of Signor Mirrella Silocchi, kidnapped by bandits who invaded the family holiday house last July, ransom demands were backed up with a gruesome package sent to the family containing his hacked-off ear. Signor Dante Berardinelli, a Tuscan businessman, returned home from

captivity last year minus a piece of both ears.

There is a growing awareness that kidnapping is the kind of barbarous crime ill-befitting a country that aspires to fifth place in the world economy, one where average living standards are on a par with most First World nations. TV documentaries denounce the outrages and feature Aspromonte towns, such as San Luca, which supposedly live off ransom money and where, according to a recent commentary, 10 per cent of the population knows where Signor Casella was hidden and who his captors are but no one will talk.

There are plenty of voices — even in Calabria — raised against kidnapping, but the law of omertà still rules.

## WORLD ROUNDUP

### Heavy attack on Unita stronghold

Lisboa — Dr Jonas Savimbi, leader of the rebel Unita movement in Angola, cut short his scheduled eight-day "private" visit to Portugal and returned to Angola early yesterday, saying that heavy fighting between his forces and those of the MPLA Government made his presence imperative (Martha de la Cal writes). He also cancelled visits to Belgium, Germany and other European countries.

He said fighting was taking place near Camde Cubango and Mavinga in southern Angola, with the bombardment of Unita-held territory there by some 15 MKG fighters. A strong MPLA offensive in southern Angola, with the town of Mavinga as the main objective, began five weeks ago. The Angolan Army has reported a key breakthrough against rebels defending Mavinga, the Portuguese news agency Lusa said yesterday, claiming it had killed 500 Unita men.

### Witness in Barry deal

Washington — Mr James McWilliams, a city council employee and a key witness in the case, has agreed to cooperate with the federal investigation of Mr Marion Barry, significantly increasing the chances of Washington's Mayor being charged with perjury and obstruction of justice as well as of possessing cocaine (Martin Fletcher writes).

Mr McWilliams is the one man who could corroborate claims that Mr Barry smoked crack in a room in Washington's Ramada Inn on December 19, 1988. In court this week, as part of a plea-bargain deal with federal prosecutors, he pleaded guilty to helping obtain drugs on that date. He then made a two-hour private appearance in front of the grand jury which has been investigating Mr Barry's activities for the past 13 months. Mr Charles Lewis, a former friend of the Mayor's, has testified under oath that he smoked crack with Mr Barry at the Ramada Inn.

### China holds Catholics

Peking — A wave of arrests has swept the underground Roman Catholic Church in the past few months, reflecting increasing nervousness by the Chinese Government about the threat posed by illegal organizations (Catherine Sampson writes). While the arrests are all but impossible to confirm within China, well-informed church sources in Paris, the Vatican and Hong Kong say that as many as 32 Catholics, who refuse to join the officially sanctioned Patriotic Catholic Association and remain loyal to the Pope, have been arrested nationally in the past two months.

### Sri Lanka abductions

Colombo — Forty Muslims were reported abducted yesterday at Kalmunai, in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka, by the main Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (Vijitha Yapa writes). Tension was mounting between Tamils and Muslims, while about 200 armed Tigers were said to be surrounding the police station to prevent officers from leaving. The Tigers have taken control with the progressive withdrawal of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force from the province, which began last year.

### Hong Kong clash

Hong Kong (Reuters) — Fifteen Hong Kong prison officers and two Vietnamese were injured yesterday during the clearing of a camp for boat people where more than 100 inmates have staged a 12-day protest, a government spokesman said. The camp was due to be closed last week, but a group of 107 boat people, the remnants of 3,000 Vietnamese inmates, refused to move to another detention centre and demanded the return of their boats to sail on to Japan. "Non-co-operators kicked and pushed" the officers and tied themselves to fixtures with torn blankets.

### Palmer reshuffle

Wellington (Reuters) — A former New Zealand minister, sacked 14 months ago by Mr David Lange for disloyalty, returned to his old Cabinet post in a reshuffle announced yesterday by Mr Geoffrey Palmer, the Prime Minister. Mr Richard Prebble goes back to the State-owned Enterprises Ministry as one of seven new ministers voted into the Cabinet last week by Labour Party MPs. The reshuffle may be Mr Palmer's last chance to improve Labour's dismal showing in opinion polls before elections this year.

## Repercussions of the Kashmir conflict

# Hindu hardliners urge crackdown on Muslims

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

Hindu hardliners are moving swiftly to capitalize on the anti-Indian uprising in Muslim-majority Kashmir, where a state of emergency has been created a surly and doubtless temporary peace.

The real danger lies not in the threat of war with Pakistan, which almost certainly will not happen, but in the flames of Hindu-Muslim communalism that it could ignite across India.

Hindu extremists are now calling for an all-out offensive to round up Muslim guerrilla leaders in Kashmir. They describe the uprising not only as anti-government but, ominously, as "anti-Hindu".

Despite the hostile rhetoric between India and Pakistan in recent days — most of it for domestic consumption — nobody in the higher ranks of the Government in Delhi seriously believes that the two countries are heading for war. There have long been cross-border skirmishes.

Confrontation may result from a mass march into India by Kashmiris from the Pakistani side of the dividing line as a show of solidarity with their Muslim "brothers". In recent weeks there has been an

exodus of up to 10,000 Hindus from the valley, according to unofficial estimates.

India has substantially reinforced its military presence in the frontier zone, primarily in the belief that it may have to encounter masses of civilians.

Even if Pakistan did mount a military operation, it could hardly expect to rout South Asia's military superpower. Pakistan's security forces, in any case, are preoccupied covering the western border with Afghanistan. Pakistan faces grave security problems in Sind province, which the Army is watching with increased unease.

India's portrayal of Pakistan as instigator of the Kashmir troubles ignores the fact that the separatist movement has mass indigenous support. There is no great love for Pakistan: Kashmiris on the Indian side of the 1948 line of control are aware that joining Pakistan would mean flooding their valley with Pathans and Punjabi Muslims.

The causes of the Kashmir conflict are many: contempt for the corrupt National Conference, which has always been the only serious political force in the valley; the impact

of growing Islamic fundamentalism; the strong sense of political and social isolation from India; and the explosive combination of educated and unemployed youth.

Indian politicians have always shied away from Kashmir, since anybody challenging the towering dominance of the National Conference was

perceived almost as anti-Indian. Most alternative political groups were pro-Pakistan, such as the Plebiscite Front and the Awami Action Committee. The only plausible alternative to emerge was the Muslim United Front, although it was fundamentalist. It was crushed in rigged

state assembly elections in 1987. After that, any semblance of legitimate politics in the Kashmir valley died.

The National Conference has collapsed in disgrace and its leader, Dr Farooq Abdullah, is holed up in Delhi. The Indian Government, desperately searching for a viable policy initiative, is exploring whether he and his party can be reshaped, repackaged and rehabilitated.

Hated though it certainly is, the National Conference is still the only political party on offer in the valley. If it did return, it would obviously not have to share power again with the Congress (I) party, which has no political base and no popular support in Kashmir.

The unnatural coalition was forced on Kashmir by Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, who wanted to make his presence felt there both for political and nostalgic reasons. His mother, Indira Gandhi, and grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, were Kashmiri brahmins.

While Muslim countries continue to berate India for its handling of the Kashmir crisis, the 90 million-odd non-

Kashmiri Muslims of India have stayed quiet. They have learned over the past 43 years that there is safety in silence. They have never displayed an interest in the affairs of Kashmiri Muslims or in pan-Islamic politics.

Non-Kashmiri Muslims regard the current unprecedented separatist challenge with alarm. Their security inside Hindu India hangs by a perilously thin thread, as anti-Muslim riots during last November's general election demonstrated. They are thinly spread across India, a vulnerable minority that tries hard to be inconspicuous.

The right-wing Hindu party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, whose parliamentary support is vital to the survival of the National Front Government, has so far restrained itself over Kashmir. But its more vociferous sister party, the Bombay-based Shiv Sena, has demanded the formal imposition of martial law and pursuit of a hardline policy.

Kashmir is resented by many Hindus because it receives disproportionate outlays of central government money which, among other things, are used to subsidize

the cost of rice. To many, this amounts to pampering Muslims at the expense of Hindus.

Much of the money is diverted into officials' pockets, however, and the overall cost of living in Kashmir is substantially higher than in the rest of India. In part because of transport costs. Vegetables and meat, for example, are much more expensive. Poverty is therefore endemic in India's only Muslim majority state — the "spoilt" state, it is often called — as it is in the Hindu heartland.

● SRINAGAR: Muslim secessionists traded gunfire with security forces yesterday as the authorities relaxed the curfew here in the summer capital of Kashmir, leaving four people wounded (AFP reports).

A police spokesman said a constable of the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force had been wounded by a sniper. Police and paramilitary troops patrolled the city as the authorities relaxed an indefinite curfew for 11 hours from 5am, but as news of the shooting spread shops that had reopened after several days brought down their shutters again.

# Beirut Christian factions battle to control enclave

From Juan Carlos Guncio, Beirut

The long-simmering struggle for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave exploded violently in the streets of east Beirut yesterday after General Michel Aoun sent his troops to crush the powerful Phalangist "Lebanese Forces" militia of Mr Samir Geagea.

Christian army soldiers and their allies were locked in heavy fighting in at least four residential districts of east Beirut and in the northern fringes of the capital, ignoring desperate calls for a ceasefire by the Maronite Church. By evening, yardward shells of those battles began landing in Syrian-controlled west Beirut.

The final of shellfire echoed across the city as convoys of merchant ships hurriedly left Beirut port. Last night, there were no reliable casualty reports and Red Cross volunteers were too frightened to pick up the dead and wounded lying in the streets.

As the fighting raged outside, east Beirut residents watched the film *The Killing Fields* on the "Lebanese

Forces" television station. Last night, the Army appeared to have the upper hand and General Aoun was trying to play down the importance and magnitude of the confrontation by declaring that his soldiers had been ordered to "join their brothers in military barracks to avert bloodshed and contain the losses".

Speaking on the militia's "Free Lebanon" radio station,



General Aoun: Sought to play down scale of fighting.

Mr Geagea left no doubt that this may be the final battle for the Christian leadership and he is prepared to fight to the end. "We will not allow those blinded by power to slaughter the Lebanese Forces," Mr Geagea said. "Our patience cannot last forever."

Apart from a number of militia positions, units of the 20,000-strong Army loyal to the general took over a research centre known as "the house of the future" in Dbyeh, and the Casino du Liban — two key institutions in the LF's structure of political and economic power.

Armed with tanks, rocket guns and mobile field launchers, Mr Geagea's 10,000 militiamen could prove a most dangerous enemy. "I have ordered all the Lebanese Forces fighters to stay in their barracks and defend them," Mr Geagea said, although his men appeared to have been taking key military initiatives. The militia claimed it had captured the air force base of Halat, just north of Beirut.

# 'Couch potatoes' to be fed round-the-clock litigation

From James Bone, New York

America's growing population of television addicts — "couch potatoes", as they are known — which already supports *Weather Channel*, a 24-hour forecast service on a cable network, is about to have its endurance further tested by two new stations which intend to broadcast round-the-clock action from the courts.

Hoping to cash in on the present popularity of *television verité* — which has already brought viewers real-life police on the beat and will soon also offer firemen and hospital doctors — two companies are racing to start live cable broadcasts of real trials.

American Lawyer Media Limited Partnership, a partner of Time Warner Incorporated, the communications giant, is already promoting *American Lawyer Media Channel*, as its service is tentatively called, for an October launch, while Cablevision Systems Corporation plans to open its *In Court* channel in September.

Live courtroom coverage is now possible in 44 states in

the US, and has produced such media successes as last year's child abuse case in New York against Mr Joel Steinberg, who was convicted of killing his illegally adopted daughter in his Greenwich Village apartment.

Local stations ran hour after hour of live testimony from the Steinberg trial, apparently convincing programmers that the public has an appetite for real courtroom drama.

But the first syndicated TV programme using only material from real trials, Republic Pictures Corporation's half-hour *On Trial*, which was broadcast last year on 140 local stations covering 75 per cent of the country, did not achieve a second season.

Admitting that real trials are often dull, its producers said that the show could not attract more than about three-quarters of its required audience of 3.2 million households.

Mr Charles Larsen, the head of Republic's domestic television distribution, conceded that his company's condensa-

tion of taped trial coverage could not serve up so spicy a diet as such fictional series as *LA Law* or *People's Court*.

The new courtroom channels will try to break the monotony which characterizes the American legal system by providing commentary as though the trials were an Olympic event.

They also plan, during dull moments, to air short features and law-related news. For those who still cannot get enough, the *In Court* channel is considering screening films featuring fictional courtroom dramas at weekends.

But one problem which the new channels will face is that many of the most important, and interesting, trials in America, including the forthcoming cases against General Manuel Noriega, the former Panamanian leader, Mr Michael Milken, the junk-bond king, and Mrs Imelda Marcos, the former Philippines First Lady, are held in federal courts, from which cameras are barred.







COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM

# Serbs serve ultimatum as Kosovo toll rises

From Dassa Trevisan  
Belgrade

Five ethnic Albanians were killed in clashes with police in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province yesterday, the eighth consecutive day of protests.

Tanjung said three people were killed in the town of Glogovac, and reporters on the scene said a fourth person had also been killed there. Yugoslav television said police shot dead a protester in the town of Stanovac.

Yugoslav media and reporters in Kosovo say that 26 people have been killed since Albanians took to the streets last week demanding political reforms, although Tanjung has reported only 15 deaths.

"It is feared that Kosovo is on the verge of a civil war," Tanjung said.

The latest violence came after thousands of Serbs demonstrated throughout the night in front of the Yugoslav federal parliament building in Belgrade demanding weapons. They also shouted abuse at the Slovene and Croatian leaderships, whom Serbia is accusing of backing the Albanian rebellion.

In Titograd, the capital of Montenegro, thousands of demonstrators demanded that relations with Slovenia be broken off. They also demanded that an ultimatum be sent to the federal presidency to restore order using all means at its disposal, including armed force, within 48 hours.

The speakers insisted that if the Yugoslav federal authorities were not capable of restoring peace within the given time, they should be forced to step down.

Amid cheers, the speakers



Opposing signals: A Yugoslav policeman, left, makes a victory sign after a clash with Albanian demonstrators in Kosovo, while protesters also claim success.

announced that volunteers were ready to move to the region in defence of the Serbian minority there and that an armed brigade stood by ready to move at a moment's notice.

Belgrade radio said that Yugoslavia stood on the brink of civil war, while the Serbian media kept whipping up emotions.

Every Albanian family in Kosovo possesses firearms, so do the Serbs.

Meanwhile, fierce fighting

erupted in the town of Podujevo after some 3,000 Albanians, including women with children in their arms, tried to push their way to the town centre but were dispersed by police with tear gas and baton charges.

In Lipjani protest marches were quickly dispersed, but after a few hours the protesters regrouped again. Cars and trains were being stoned by demonstrators and roads were being blocked.

Villages inhabited by Serbs are guarded by police, while the villagers keep armed vigil. Albanian peasants have joined the protest and demonstrators are finding shelter in the wooded mountain villages where fierce fighting was reported yesterday.

The Kosovo region is becoming an open wound which threatens to bleed Yugoslavia to death.

The Albanian demonstrators are demanding democracy and a multi-party system, such as is being legalised in other parts of Yugoslavia. They are also demanding free elections.

The collapse of the Yugoslav communist party's congress and the disarray in the ranks of Yugoslavia's leading communists have provided an impetus for the Albanians in the region to seek equal status for themselves.

Given a choice, the Albanians would without any doubt vote for their own leaders, such as the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo, which has increased its membership to almost 200,000 in less than a month.

However, such a possibility is for the time being excluded by Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, who remains set against giving any political institutions to the Albanians. Barred from participating in political life, the Albanians have no other option but to take to the streets and protest. In fact, they have been doing so ever since Serbia took over control of the

region. However, at this particular time they are playing into the hands of Mr Milosevic, whose popularity has been fading.

Serbian intellectuals have become disillusioned because of his reluctance to accept political pluralism, while Serbian nationalist extremists accuse him of not being firm enough in Kosovo.

The unrest in the region provides Mr Milosevic with a welcome opportunity to restore his popularity.

But in Slovenia the Kosovo repression has been condemned by all, including the local communist party leaders.

Slovenia and Croatia have called for an emergency meeting of the federal authorities, while in Kosovo Albanian militants are pledging to go on fighting to the last.

The view in the northern republics — shared by Western diplomats — is that Mr Milosevic's intransigence and reliance on repression only has thrown away any possibility of finding a way out of the Kosovo problem.

The Albanians feel that they are under Serbian occupation and, denied legal opposition and with an imposed leadership, they see their only chance in protest.

"If the Serbs do not relax their reign, Albanians would have no choice but to take to the hills," an Albanian dissident said.

"Unless Milosevic accepts a dialogue with true Albanian representatives who enjoy popular trust, Serbia — and with it Yugoslavia — will be thrown into bloody and protracted civil war, which it could never win," a Western diplomat predicted.

## Urgent surgery on Glomp

From A Correspondent  
Warsaw

Cardinal Jozef Glomp, the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland, was in a serious condition yesterday after two emergency operations to stop internal bleeding.

Mgr Glomp, aged 61, was rushed from his palace to hospital on Tuesday morning, where an immediate operation was performed to stop gastro-intestinal bleeding.

A communiqué from the Polish Primate's secretariat said that during the night he had had a second operation.

A medical source at the hospital said that the situation was critical overnight and that "the cardinal is far from stable". President Jaruzelski, who frequently met Cardinal Glomp during the recent turbulent years in Poland, visited him in hospital yesterday.

Cardinal Glomp has been head of the Polish Church since 1981 after the death of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński. He underwent successful surgery for a gall bladder problem two years ago.

His policy of moderation in dealing with the communists over the past eight years angered many militants in the Solidarity free trade union movement, but he had the support of Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader.

His patience and regular contacts with General Jaruzelski, the former communist party leader who is now the head of state, brought success for the Church, whose position in Poland was officially recognized last year.

## Cubans face the prickly realities of isolationism

By Charles Bremner

Beards, long the insignia of President Castro and his guerrilla comrades, have just made a comeback in Cuba. The reason, however, is not fashion but necessity.

A Soviet ship carrying 10.3 million "Sputnik" blades destined for Cuban clinics failed to turn up in Havana in December, provoking a severe shortage and forcing many men to stop shaving or sharpen used blades. The ship has now sailed in but Señor Rigoberto Fernandez, the Deputy Trade Minister, soured the good news by going on the radio to say that he had no idea when the next load would come.

A lack of "Sputniks" is just one facet of the crisis now being endured in Cuba as President Castro's tropical island struggles to go it alone as a stronghold of orthodox Leninism. Like the waves smashing on to the Malecon, Havana's majestic old seafront, the upheaval in the communist world is pounding



Dr Castro: Confident he will weather the Gorbachev era, both the economy of Cuba and some of its leaders' convictions.

"We had a very difficult situation when we started our revolution, but this is the most difficult since then," says Señor José Antonio Arbesu, Cuba's chief representative in Washington. But foreign diplomats, as well as critical allies like Nicaragua's Sandinista leaders, believe it unlikely that President Castro is about to go the way of his former colleagues in Eastern Europe.

Although effectively a dictator, Fidel — as he is widely called — still enjoys great loyalty as the leader who threw out the Americans and gave his impoverished country a modicum of welfare as well as prestige in the world.

The "maximum leader" has just warned his people that what he calls the "atomization" of the socialist bloc

means that Cuba faces "total uncertainty" about its traditional economic ties with Moscow and Eastern Europe.

There is little meat, poultry, flour or milk available in Havana. In this season of traditional abundance in the Caribbean, fish has all but disappeared from the shops and fruit and vegetables are rarely to be seen. Today, the daily bread ration is being reduced from 7oz. to less than 6oz. per household and the price of a loaf in Havana boosted by 30 per cent. The Russians are to blame again, say the Cubans, because Soviet ships have failed for the first time in 20 years to deliver wheat and flour.

Apart from the diminution of Eastern bloc food and consumer goods on which Cuba depends, the Soviet Union has cut heavily the supplies of its cheap oil which fuels all the nation's vehicles and which Cuba traditionally also re-exports for hard currency.

Havana taxi drivers have been told to expect the worst. The other big Soviet subsidy — the high payment Moscow makes for Cuban sugar — is also on its way out, say Soviet officials.

More bad tidings came last month when the Comecon trading bloc decided to switch to hard-currency trading. Approximately 80 per cent of Cuba's exports now go to Eastern bloc countries under the Comecon barter system.

Yet another blow was dealt by the US invasion of Panama. Under General Manuel Noriega, Cuba set up a string of front companies to handle exports and imports, enabling Havana to side-step the US embargo.

The big question for President Castro's Latin sympathizers as well as his American foes is how long he can fend off the forces of change, as pledged in the big slogan now seen in Havana: "Cuba now rather sink in the sea than take down the banner of revolution and socialism."

"Fidel wants to do things his way and he is sure he will be proved right," says a Nicaraguan official. "He is also convinced that he will survive Gorbachev."

A US State Department expert agreed that Dr Castro was different from the communist leaders of Eastern Europe: "There isn't even graffiti on the walls. We don't think Cuba is threatened to the degree East Europe was."

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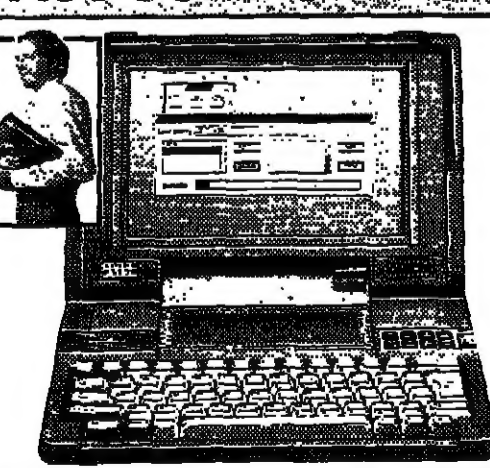
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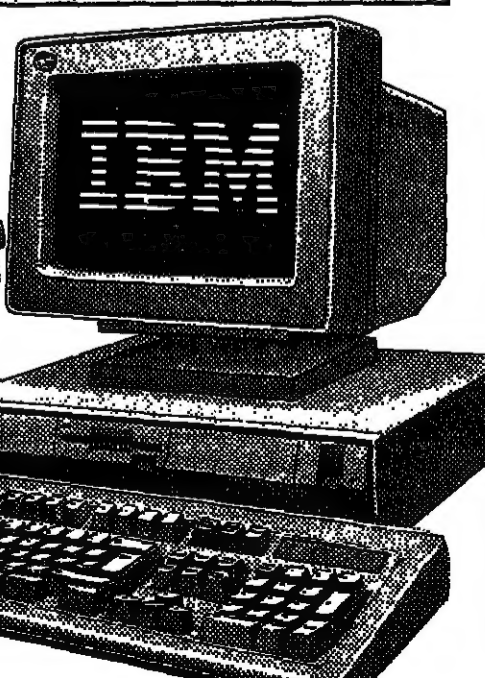


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## SPECTRUM

## New referee for a troubled game

THE TIMES  
PROFILE

ARTHUR SANDFORD

Until yesterday, there was a sign proclaiming "Blessed are the Peacemakers" over the door leading into the chief executive's office in Nottingham County Hall. But Arthur Sandford has taken it with him to his new post as chief executive of England's Football League, which he takes up today.

It is debatable how appropriate the motto is for anyone taking up such a job only three days after the publication of the Taylor report into last year's Hillsborough tragedy. If the game's first reaction to the report's disapproval of the Government's ID card scheme was euphoric, a closer look brought the realization that the whole basis of professional football in this country was under threat.

The report leaves football or, more realistically, the 92 clubs for which Sandford will be responsible, facing the task of finding an estimated £130 million to make the improvements necessary to turn decaying 19th-century structures into safe all-seater stadiums fit for the 21st century.

And that is only Sandford's first problem. Hooliganism is, at best, under control, rather than conquered. The English clubs' continuing exclusion from European competition, a problem whose resolution may require the Government's active goodwill — and there is no sign of that in the offing — is a running sore on the body of the domestic game, and preparing for 1992 is becoming a pressing need.

In itself that list would be formidable, were the league a united body. Notoriously it is not. Quarrels over money between the small group of rich clubs and the rest are a constant factor, leading to continual threats of a break-away "Super League".

Even Sandford's appointment, although finally unanimous, took months of public bickering which at times threatened the survival of Bill Fox, the league president, to whom Sandford will be responsible.

Many people surveying Sandford's inheritance would decide that a capacity for knocking heads together might be of more use than an ability to make peace. Sandford has retorted that "Blessed are the Peacemakers" does not mean "Blessed are the Compromisers", and his close associates are in no doubt that behind the slightly worried expression there is a manager of high calibre.

He has the classic background for a local government officer, and indeed football league administrator — the bright, working class grammar school boy. Sandford, the son of a Lancashire shuttle-maker, passed the 11-plus to go to Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn, one of the North's outstanding grammar schools. It was — and is — a famous soccer school, but Sandford's main claim to sporting fame in his schooldays was as a runner when he was 15 he won the Lancashire junior half-mile championship. But his background made an interest in football almost obligatory.

There is a photograph of Sandford, at the age of six or seven, dressed as the mascot for Blackburn St Matthews, his uncle Harry's church team. Along with many of his peers he stood behind the goal at Ewood Park to watch Blackburn Rovers, the local club, which was then in the first division. A little later he played club cricket in the same team as Bryan Douglas, Rovers' international winger.

He took up refereeing as a way of fitting in, and that brought him his only other official position in football — secretary of Blackburn Referees Society. It clearly

caught his fancy, and he refereed in the Football Combination, composed of league clubs' second teams, and reached the football league list as a linesman from 1974 to 1977.

After QEGS he went on to the University of London to read law, graduating in 1962. He returned to the north-west, to Preston, where he was articled to the town clerk, and stayed for three years, before moving to Hampshire County Council as local government began to change course. It was the era of T. Dan Smith and big developments by local government. Hampshire was not the north-east, but it was also infected

by the more aggressive approach of the new wave of local government officers, and Sandford played his part in the development of new towns, as well as advocating the building of the M27.

In 1970 he moved to Nottinghamshire. He was clearly marked out as a high flyer, and in 1978 he became the youngest ever county council chief executive when he was appointed by Nottinghamshire — a promotion that ended his refereeing career.

But he retained his interest in football. Both the Nottingham clubs, County and Forest — where he was a regular spectator — found



him helpful over a range of matters, and he was a frequent guest on Nottingham Forest's trips abroad for European matches. When he argues passionately for the return of English clubs to Europe, which he regards as one of his most important tasks, he speaks from personal knowledge.

He showed, in local government, the fine political touch necessary in a council in which power was evenly balanced. He worked successfully with both Labour and Conservative council leaders, and his political skills enabled the council to surmount intense local divisions caused by the miners' strike.

Those skills were in the local government tradition, but unlike the old town clerk, the new chief executive saw his role as not just carrying out his councillors' wishes, but setting their agenda and being an active manager rather than a reactive one.

He is respected in Whitehall and has a reputation as a lobbyist, skills which will be undoubted assets if football is going to persuade the Government to unbend and give financial support, or help the clubs return to European competition.

His various staffs have liked and respected him, and that should not change. He inherits a smooth-running professional organization divided between the league headquarters at Lytham, Lancashire, and the commercial office in London which, after years of neglect, is beginning to put the game on a much sounder financial basis.

He is at ease in business, and has some experience as a fund-raiser and financier. He played an important part in developing the National Water Sport Centre at Holme Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire, and oversaw the sale of local authority land. "Our land sales ran to £17 million, so I'm used to dealing with big numbers," he once remarked.

The recommendations of the Taylor report mean he is now going to have to get used to even bigger ones. Running a local government machine is not the same as running a high profile industry like football.

Alan Hardaker came from local government too, you know, he is fond of saying, revealing a dry sense of humour which will be much tested in the months to come. Hardaker, the league secretary between 1957 and 1979, ran the league virtually as a dictator, and the mention of his name

might cause one or two potential miscreants to shudder.

There have been suggestions that Sandford was the choice of the big clubs because they believed an outsider would find the league's unwieldy structure unacceptable and recommend changes in their favour. His background, and his friends' testimony, suggest that they may have misjudged their man. His record suggests that behind the mild exterior he has the necessary steel and management skills.

But there is one serious question mark. He is stepping into a very public arena for the first time and, as well as an efficient and good leader, football needs one who will be seen as being dynamic and persuasive — in other words, a good front man.

It is not a role easily associated with Sandford. "He has marginally less charisma than Graham Kelly," granted one cynical journalist after Sandford's first press conference after his appointment. Kelly, effectively Sandford's predecessor and now his counterpart at the Football Association, was noted as an able administrator at Lytham, but notoriously lacking a dynamic personality.

Kelly, however, has begun to blossom in his new role, and possibly Sandford will also. He has one thing going for him: with the English game facing its greatest crisis, the external threat is likely to persuade even the most bullish Super Leaguers that, for the moment, everyone has to pull together. That in itself is an advantage none of the league's previous leaders have enjoyed. Even then, a talent for knocking heads together might still be required.

Peter Ball

## The perils of the compiler

Crossword addicts keep *The Times* team logical, smooth and innocent

explain the clue "Billy Graham fired thus (8)" (cremated)? This refers not to the evangelist, but to Harry Graham's Ruthless Rhyme: "Billy, in one of his nice new sashes, Fell in the fire and was burnt to ashes; Now, although the room grows cold and chilly, I haven't the heart to poke poor Billy."

Some readers find we should drop our rule of anonymity and identify our compilers at least by pseudonyms. We have 10 regular compilers plus myself. I fear that unsuccessful solvers might come to regard certain setters as personal *bêtes noires* and avoid their puzzles.

As it is, the puzzles are by a different hand each day of the week and vary in difficulty,

though not, one hopes, in consistency or fairness. The Saturday prize puzzle, incidentally, is not necessarily the hardest of the week, but is chosen as a good example of its kind.

The compiling of the puzzles seems to interest many readers. The first question is how does one start — with clues or the grid? The answer is the grid, because if you start with the clues you soon find that you cannot fit more than about half-a-dozen chosen words into the grid which, being symmetrical, is fairly intricate. (We do not make up the grids as we go along, but use any of our 25 stock grids.)

Filling in the grid usually takes a couple of hours (longer if the words behave perversely in the bottom right-hand corner). Devising the clues, which is the enjoyable part, can be

done at any time, anywhere. I reckon the whole puzzle, grid and clues, is a day-and-a-half's work, barring accidents.

One of the most common accidents is duplication. Sometimes the same word crops up in different puzzles intended for the same week. One must then either leave one of the puzzles to lie fallow for a couple of months or attempt structural repairs if the grid will allow it. But if the offending word or phrase is both long and memorable — golden handshake, to take a painful example — there is really nothing to be done except warn compilers to lay off it for the next couple of years.

And it may not be easy to find a different clue for the duplicated word when it is eventually used. We had a bad run once with conundrum,

which had to be successively

clued as:

Firm with a woman in order to beat a problem;

Tricky question, admitting sister to company party once;

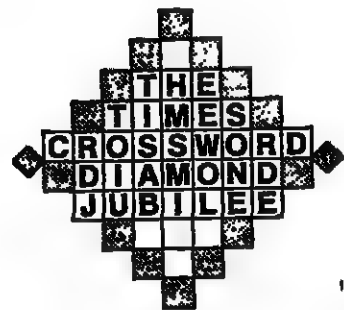
Problem sister, running up and down in the country tea party; and

Fish swallows blue tit — difficult puzzle.

And, finally, there is the difficulty of the virtually unclueable word. Sometimes one can find it in a quotation, but that is a last resort. For any worthwhile quotation should spring to the setter's mind naturally, and not from a trawp through the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*. But, having said this, I have to admit I know there are no quotations that include either *apauit* or *stapely*, because I have been driven to look at the index.

John Grant

## More pieces to the puzzle



Here is the fourth set of clues to our prize crossword, the answers to which fit within, but do not fill, the unshaded section of the grid

## ACROSS

- 126 Adam's wine-flask? (5-6)  
135 Within impressionism, one talented contributor (5)  
136 Track almost complete — but sleepers aren't (7)  
145 Inn's surroundings, where learners get together (5)  
146 Plant I removed from earth (5)  
155 Jet-set? (4-5)  
163 Make steady progress in workshop (5)  
164 King, a fellow showing element of nobility (5)  
171 One who lays down his life for another (11)  
174 Where a too-enthusiastic wet has gone? (9)

- 180 View I reportedly photographed (7)  
181 Putting on show or concealing? (9)  
183 Bilingually, the end of a fairy (5)  
197 Arranged a loan sum — nothing unusual (9)  
199 A foundation on the rocks (7)  
202 Ought to change — that's not an easy task (7)  
205 Neat knitwear in craft collection (9)  
206 On a trip, drinks in exalted mood (4,7)  
208 From the M1 men, we hear many stories (3,8,3,3,6)

## DOWN

- 109 Problem with pipe tune — finally use appropriate key (7)  
115 Tent, for example, endlessly there for king (5)  
119 Threatening acquaintances booked in France (3,8,11)  
127 Tribesman repeatedly volunteers to run (5)  
136 Old men from Ireland it's futile to chase (4,5)  
137 Patriotic work from staff in land I adore (9)

- 145 Group with mission providing work for church (4,5)  
146 Possible to get quarters that can be improved (9)  
155 Science established by sound investigations (9)  
162 Poet's angry? Wordsworth's speechlessly distraught (5)  
171 Book with coloured cover (11)

- 172 Unqualified to speak, mainly (5)  
173 Deliberately lose a chance (5)  
181 US writer sets end of play in Californian city (9)  
182 Fine judgement makes sound sense (4,5)  
184 Immediately on the side of river, initially (9)  
187 Overwhelmed by anxiety, doctor's admitted (7)

- 188 Old man's work the lion destroyed (7)  
189 Remove smooth characters before I appear in French city (7)  
190 One bound I set free he escaped with ease (7)  
198 Confusion upset university supporters (5)  
200 Scratched and bloody when admitted (5)  
201 Pursue game silently under cover (5)

**THE CHALLENGE**

• The Times Diamond Jubilee Crossword has been broken into five sections, which are appearing throughout this week.

• On Saturday we will reprint the whole grid, together with the remaining multi-section clues. Entries should be filed in on the grid which is reprinted on Saturday.

• There are 12 prizes on offer for the successful solvers: the winner will receive £1,000 and a trip to India for two, courtesy of Hogg Robinson and Cox & Kings. The second prize is a numbered set of the 32-volume *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in the latest edition Platinum binding, and a matching copy of the *Britannica World Fact Book*. Each of the 10 runners-up will receive *The Times Atlas of the World*.

• Details of how to enter your solution, and the closing date, will be published on Saturday.

## COULD YOU SOLVE THIS PUZZLE AS FAST AS EINSTEIN?

🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏	28
🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏	30
🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏	20
🍏	🍏	🍏	🍏	16
19	20	30		

## HOW TO SOLVE THE PUZZLE

The different types of fruit have different values. Added together they give the totals shown. Work out the missing total for the left hand column.

If you can solve this puzzle, you could be eligible to join Mensa, the high IQ Society. Cut out the coupon for further details and a copy of the self-administered test. To: Mensa, FREEPOST, Wolverhampton WV2 1BR (no stamp required)

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January 31 1990

# GAMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

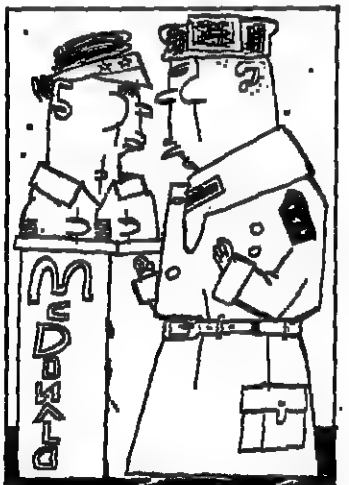
News that His Excellency Señor Don José J. Puig de la Bellacasa is going home after nearly seven years as Spanish ambassador at the Court of St James's has caused widespread regret. He returns to Madrid next month to become private secretary to King Juan Carlos, with the expectation that he will eventually become head of the Spanish royal household. The ambassador is already well acquainted with Spain's jovial motorcycling monarch, having been his secretary before Carlos took the throne. Bellacasa's achievements in cementing Anglo-Spanish relations have been little short of remarkable, in spite of the constant irritation of massive layoffs on the Costa, the first state visit by a British monarch to Madrid, a visit here by Juan Carlos during which he addressed Parliament, an official visit by the Waleses, and a guest appearance in Spain by Señora Thatcher herself. But probably the bravest act of his tenure was to light the first beacon during the 1988 anniversary of the Armada, a small matter many Spaniards would really prefer to forget. Touchingly, Bellacasa is refusing to go home until the Queen returns from New Zealand, so that he can bid her adios personally.

Using the local valuation rolls, Chris Patten, our pea-green Environment Secretary, has sent out 1.7 million letters explaining the new business rates for property. Many have been returned, including one addressed to "The Occasions, The Mortuary, Manchester Road, Burnley." No longer at this address, I imagine.

West Germans are getting happier and happier; it must be something to do with the prospect of reunification. The Wicket Institute has just asked 4,067 of them "Have you laughed already today?" and found that 89 per cent of them had. Three years ago only 79 per cent were laughing, and at the end of the Seventies just 77 per cent. The over-50s — the ones who will have to pay most of the tax to make reunification work — laugh least, but even 84 per cent of them are happy. Only a nation as deadly serious as the Germans could hold such a poll.

News that the fishermen of Peterhead are battling ten Scottish mackerel for one Russian haddock makes me wonder how they work out the relative values. How many Loch Fyne kippers equal one sturgeon? Is this the official haddock rate of exchange, or black market? And if the Scots ever achieve independence, will they demand parity between the Finnan haddock and the Dover sole? Will the humble coley be allowed to join the European Monetary System? The Russians seem happy enough to dispose of their Baltic whitties; all I can assume is that, having digested the opening of the Moscow McDonald's this week, they are not yet ready for the fish and chip shop.

BARRY FANTONI



'One quarter-pound cabbage burger to go, Conrade'

Despite Dame Daphne du Maurier pooch-pooching the idea of a biography before she died last April, her daughters have commissioned one. Margaret Forster, novelist and biographer of Thackeray and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, has been assigned the formidable task. It will be published by Chatto and Windus, and Forster, in her four-year undertaking, hopes to give the "elusive" du Maurier her rightful place in the pantheon of 20th-century novelists.

I had never thought of Concorde in the same terms as a packet of custard creams, but a knowledge of things that fly is apparently no longer a prerequisite for landing a top job with British Airways. Jane Wilson has left United Biscuits to become brand manager for BA's fleet of the world's most beautiful aeroplane. There she will find that one of her senior general managers is Ian McComas (late of Heinz beans), another is Mike Butt (late of Mars bars) and her director of marketing is Liam Strong (late of Colman's mustard). Clearly it is not a matter of what you sell, but how you sell it. And there's much to be said for volume; one Concorde single to New York roughly equals 8,500 Mars bars.

On Monday evening a friend came to dinner, a vintage friend circa 1952. I had a nightclub in Chelsea at the time and he, an undergraduate, would come and help with the washing-up when my regular kitchen porter was overcome by St Patrick's Day. Later he became a captain of cricket and I got my own back, playing for his team. I went to his wedding; he became godfather to my third child. Then when I was in Parliament and he an academic I used to be invited to come and shout at his customers — though our politics differed substantially. In short a genuine friend.

He lives in the country, came to London by train, took the Underground, walked. I, too, took extra trouble, eschewed the street market, went to the expensive greengrocer and bought his best melon (big mistake, that), soaked a piece of gammon for 24 hours and

baked it in a covering of brown sugar dissolved in overproof rum — what the Jamaicans call "Be Rude To Your Mother-in-Law" because it gives men the courage to do just that, garnished it with chunks of pineapple and slithers of fresh ginger caramelized to shining mahogany.

We had new potatoes with parsley and undercooked Brussels sprouts liquidized with cream and a scrape of nutmeg; a bottle of Amarone 1977, one of the great Valpolicellas... and before dinner we watched the marathon from Auckland on television — he saying that red-pant looked good, I advising him not to write off green-pant who had a fearsome

flashing burst. Red-pant won. I was slicing frozen croissants horizontally, filling them with matured farmhouse cheese and anchovy fillets prior to putting them into a low oven for 12 minutes, when the pastry would crisp, the cheese melt, and we were playing cricketers' initials: Peckles? "LAR — that's O level stuff." Trick question. Sutcliffe only had one: H. "Here is an S level Merchant who played for India!" "Do you mean VIM or UM?"

He failed on Dempster CS, I on Shackleton — whose initials were never an issue, he was called Shack — when my daughter, his godchild, arrived and the conversation became more general.

We discussed the thrifty Scotsman who was in a blue movie and played it backwards because he so enjoyed it when the booker gave him the money. We talked of our



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work: my friend's was taking him to London four times a week, commutes mostly. Emma was either going to front a worldwide television awards ceremony, or do cabaret in an upstairs room of a pub in Islington; which did we think she should go for?

I was still on readers' letters, about me answering the rude ones with "how kind of you to find the time to write" and the nice ones with enthusiasm — like one from a Gloucestershire lady who was worried about my getting ripped off by London garages and gave me the name of hers, which was honest to a fault and so inexpensive that I would show a profit if I drove down, stayed the night in a

local hotel and had a good dinner. Emma's taxi came. I asked my friend when his train left: he said 11.10, had some more coffee and I drove him to the station.

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when I found out, "You could have stayed here, you know we have a spare room, why did you not say?" And he uttered a bit and said: "I didn't want to impose on you, old chap."

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I was going to explain to my friend that life was about successful communication but decided that after all those years I should have known about him and said: "Blessed are the meek for they shall..."

Meek BW, he said; played for Worcestershire in the 1940s.

## Mark Almond on a Romanian conspiracy to bury the past

# Triumph of the turncoats

are reminiscent of the old order's birth pangs 40 years ago. Silvia Brucan, the Front's chief spokesman and probably its brains, was then the author of editorials and articles justifying the tactics of the National Democratic Front's supporters and denying government complicity in breaking up its opponents' meetings.

On Sunday, student demonstrators carried tattered pieces of newspaper hidden under floors for 40 years; they were Brucan's articles in *Scinteia* demanding the death penalty for the then opposition leaders. Others had disfigured photographs of relations who had been executed in those grim days; the *Securitate* had cut out the faces.

Brucan, now in his seventies, risked his life last year by criticizing Ceausescu. But his criticism was essentially that the dictator's madness was destroying faith in communism. Now that he has come out on top, where does Brucan stand? The man who made the coup within the December revolution are now afraid that their past services to the regime will be

The most striking aspect of the trial of Nicolae Ceausescu's four closest political associates (outside his family) which opened in Bucharest on Saturday is the determination of the presiding judge to allow no discussion of events in Romania before December 16, 1989. "The past is a foreign country; we all incriminated ourselves there," seems to be the justification for the narrow frame of the trial. Fear of the revelation of complicity in 40 years of repression hampers the man who toppled Ceausescu's 24-year-long rule.

Without the extraordinary courage of the students and others in so many cities, the generals of both the army and the *Securitate* would never have found the will to turn against Ceausescu. But without the security forces' desertion of their master, the slaughter of the crowds would have continued. The men who made the coup within the December revolution are now afraid that their past services to the regime will be

exhumed and found to outweigh their service to the revolution.

The apparent determination of the old *apparatchiki* at the head of the Front to hold on to power has united the principal opposition parties. Doina Cornea left the Front, in which she was enrolled against her knowledge, and has refused to join any party. She is disappointed that Ion Iliescu and his colleagues, with their administrative experience, were not willing to act as a transitional government leading to a democratically chosen post-communist system and preserve essential services from chaos.

Unlike many of those who chant "Doina Cornea is with us", she does not want revenge for the past, just guarantees for the future. It was the Front's decision to stand for election against the disparate opposition parties despite its control of the media that led to her resignation.

Only the Front is allowed to operate in the factories, which remain under the direction of the old ministries, in turn con-

trolled by the Front. Even without the burden of his past, it would be difficult to believe Brucan's denial of foreknowledge of the demonstrations against the opposition parties on Monday. The opposition may be right to say the workers (and soldiers in civilian dress) who have attacked its leaders and offices are manipulated by the Front.

However, the level of genuine support for the Front should not be underestimated. To the average Romanian, the Front has brought beating and lighting, and perhaps most importantly, a real sense of freedom. Passengers remark on their delight at talking to foreigners on a train without worrying about the other people in the compartment. The real benefits of the fall of Ceausescu are magnified by the Front's crude but effective propaganda.

A visit to the now ransacked offices of the National Liberal Party revealed how proud they were of a few antiquated typewriters, but the television gave

the impression of fat-cats with dollars trying to steal the revolution from the people. Brief television slots are given to the multiplicity of parties (some rumoured to be Front creations) but they are often followed by bedside interviews with wounded heroes of the revolution expressing their support for Ion Iliescu and his colleagues.

So far the clashes between supporters of the opposition and of the Front have led only to bruises and bloody noses. Some of the intellectuals who are critical of the Front fear that if the tide of public opinion began to flow in favour of the current underdogs, worse might follow. The students think that they overthrew Ceausescu and therefore they are not afraid of Iliescu, but Ion Iliescu stands the generals of the army and the *Securitate* who helped to form the Front. At least one professor, a shrewd critic of Iliescu, fears that the military would step in rather than allow the opposition to take power and set up an inquiry into the past.

Although the old apparatus of repression is dormant, its agents are to be seen not in demob suits but in army uniforms. Growing chaos might suit the turncoats better than the disincarnates.

The author is lecturer in modern history at Oriel College, Oxford.

## Bernard Levin, rejoicing in step-by-step manuscripts, is thankful that the master composers had no computers

# Switching to a different key

There was an auction of musical autographs at Sotheby's not long ago at which the original manuscript of the Schumann Piano Concerto fetched £880,000 (by far the highest sum paid at the sale), not only because it was obviously an exceptional treasure, but because the experts have found substantial traces of Clara's hand in the autograph score; so substantial, indeed, that it seems we may have to call it the Schumanns Piano Concerto in future.

The same sale included a number of Beethoven items, crowned by a sketch for the first movement of the Ninth Symphony. The very thought of such an item makes me tremble; to look over Beethoven's shoulder as he wrestled with that unique and astounding opening would be as close to God as we sinners are likely to get.

In what distant deeps or skies  
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?  
On what wings dare he aspire  
What the hand dare seize the fire?

There was also a Schubert ms, of a Magnificat, described as "lost", leaving it unclear whether it was only the ms that had been lost and was now found, or whether the work itself had hitherto never been known about. If the latter, I trust the new owner will have it published; to think of even a fragment of Schubert left unplayed, let alone a complete addition to his catalogue, would be unbearable.

Mind you, I have held in my hands the original score of the Coriolan overture, perhaps not among Beethoven's best-loved masterpieces, as, for instance, Egmont is, but surely one of his most characteristic creations, in its numerous unexpectednesses, the most unexpected being that strange finish with the four ghostly chords, like some set of great folios shutting. (The museum which let me touch the Beethoven ms drew the line at their Gutenberg Bible. Still, many years ago I turned the pages of the Keimsscott Chaucer; it was going for £900, and I didn't buy it, fool that I must have been.)

There is, I think, something much deeper than curiosity in the wish to see the hand actually at work; what wouldn't we give for a volume, a page, a line, of Shakespeare's? For one thing, we could see how the first attempts turn gradually into the finished passage; oh, I know Ben Jonson said "the never blotted a line", but that was surely an exaggeration, understandable in a tribute to a dead friend and colleague. But to see the ink he dipped his pen in, rusting now on the page, would be a magical experience.

Beethoven said of the second

movement of Beethoven's Eighth Symphony that "it was conceived in an instant and written down in a single sitting." And that is what we all feel when we hear it, so musically complete and perfect as it is. But Beethoven wrote the sketch, and he worked long and hard, changing his mind over and over again, until at last he was satisfied, if indeed Beethoven could ever be satisfied. *Arts et claviers* over.

For that matter, Beethoven's most notable change of mind in *Fidelio* in its entirety. If you compare the original work, which failed in the theatre, with his second thoughts, you will find that every time he made an alteration it was for the better, and the result is not only one of the greatest operas ever written, but one of the most profound statements about love, truth, courage, justice and deliverance ever made in any form.

It is now said, with much plausibility, that the age of manuscript is coming to an end. I can see it. I can see the example of the plausibility not long ago, when someone wrote to ask for the original manuscript or typescript of a particular column (in which my correspondent had been mentioned). I was obliged to reply that there was no such physical reality; the article had been "typed" on the green glass of my AteX VDU, and once I had pressed the appropriate button (I am very good at pressing the inappropriate button), it went on its way into the *Times*' system, untouched by human hand.

This in turn led to another, more mysterious, question. I mentioned the episode to friends not versed in computer typesetting and similarly arcane matters; I explained that my words

were stored automatically until I went to work on them again, whereupon the right button would bring the entire text to the screen. "But where", asked one of the company, "are your words before you bring them back to the screen?" I realized that not only was I unable to answer the question; there was a sense in which I couldn't even understand it.

"I can make noises, of course," I said. "The words are stored as electrical impulses." But for all that actually means to me, I might as well say that they are written down by an angel with a golden pen. It is all very well to be assured that the medium is not the message, and the contents are still supreme, but I don't trust this work; I fear that one day I shall wake up and find that the best bottle of ink has been emptied.

Let us go back for a moment to where we started. There are computers which can copy music as easily as words; suppose Beethoven had had one of them. You can say that he would have written the same music. But we should never have had the evidence to confuse Beethoven over the Eighth Symphony, and we would never be certain which version of *Fidelio* was the better, because Beethoven would have wiped the earlier version.

What is more, we would have lost something very valuable from our idea of Mozart. For he did conceive of masterpieces in an instant; with some of his greatest works the fair copy exactly matches the sketch, indeed is the sketch. We have to believe it, from the incontrovertible evidence of the manuscripts, which was the last straw for Shafli's Salfieri ("Tonight at an inn somewhere in this city stands a giggling child who can put on paper, without actually

setting down his billiard cue, casual notes which turn my most considered ones into lifeless scratches"). But if those casual notes had no existence other than as part of a machine's electronic insides, the argument could never have ended, or even started.

It is not yet lost, though, as I can testify. I possess the original manuscript score of a work dedicated to me, in fact written for me, by a young composer of great gifts, high Richard Blackford. (He also, without actually setting down his billiard cue, wrote the music for my last two television travel series.)

It is a fantasia for wind quintet (flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon) on themes from *The Mastersingers*, and is called *Portrait of Hans Sachs*. It was presented to me first in a surprise performance; the circumstances were festive, and reminiscent of Wagner's birthday present to Cosima, the surprise of the *Siegfried Idyll*. I would not part with my manuscript for ninety-nine times the sum that bought the Schumann Piano Concerto ms, and it is no use your waiting until I die and going to the auction of my effects, for I shall have bequeathed it to one who loves music and Richard as much as I do.

For a month only, Alec McCowen is reviving his memorable reading of St Mark's Gospel, at the Half Moon Theatre. Those who missed it at the Mermaid or Queen Elizabeth Hall should not miss now one of the most remarkable and profound theatrical occasions of their lives. I have no interest to declare, other than the satisfaction it will give me to know that I may have persuaded even a single waverer to go.

The overriding political danger ahead of the Government is that it will either not defeat inflation decisively in the next year or that, if it does, the cost of victory will turn growth into recession and the fall in unemployment into a renewed rise. That is not an economic climate in which it is easy to assuage public discontent with the conditions of many public services and the level of investment in them.

In a tactical sense, therefore, the progress report from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisory Group on Urban Priority Areas, *Living Faith in the City* (the sequel to *Faith in the City*) might be said to be well-timed. Moreover, although it has followed its predecessor into the fray against the trend of government policy, it has done so with greater circumspection. The Government's commitment to the renewal of the inner cities is acknowledged, though with criticism of the resources allocated and the methods of deployment.

Yet the report reveals deplorably shipshod and illogical thinking and its words ought not, because they are softer in parts, to escape critical analysis. As good a place as any to begin is the following sentence: "In brief, the Government's claim is that by more selective targeting and more central control a smaller total of public expenditure can be used more effectively to encourage a higher level of private sector investment, leading to more rapid and sustainable local economic regeneration."

But that implies that the Government sees selective targeting and central control as a way of spending less. In fact, the Government's claim is only that they are the best way to get value for a given amount of money, the supply of which cannot be infinite. Nor would anyone suppose from the sentence quoted that the Government is actually spending much more in real terms; the implication seems to be that it is spending less.

The report goes on to criticize as inadequate the policy of encouraging a higher level of private-sector investment to benefit the priority areas. Then, having it both ways, it adds that it does not "seek to prejudice the political choices between free market and interventionist solutions to these problems and the range of practical courses in between these extremes". But to contrast the "free market" and "interventionism" as opposites in this context is absurd; the money given to stimulate the private sector is itself interventionism.

The truth is that the term "free market" has become both a buzz-word and a bogey in the church circles which consider these matters. They know that it is something that they must come to terms with. But they stay convinced that what they call "interventionism" (which must be direct) is the way of virtue. Recalling that *Faith in the City* tending to recommend interventionist policies as the

best practical way, the report remarks that it could not say this was wrong "in the deplorable situation that exists in Urban Priority Areas today".

So too, on poverty and employment the report recalls the belief of *Faith in the City* that "too much emphasis was being placed on individualism and not enough on collective obligation". It records the fall in unemployment without acknowledging that this has been due to the free-market policies it decides. It adds that the number still unemployed is much higher than would have been tolerated until a few years ago but does not mention the concealed unemployment which formerly led to inflation paid for by everyone.

Indeed, nowhere does inflation come into the argument at all, which is what makes the report so purblind. Instead, the report attacks attempts to draw a distinction between absolute and relative poverty, declares that society is becoming "more unequal", seems to reject targeting social benefits and declares that current economic and social policies are intended to "recast" society.

It states: "Policies based on common obligations, corporate responsibility and social justice are rejected as leading inevitably to a loss of personal freedom, the growth of bureaucratic vested interests and economic stagnation." From the first part of that sentence, you would hardly think that the public spending announced in this week's White Paper for the next year will be 39 per cent of the gross national product; that by far the largest spending item is £56 billion on social security; or that health will take £22 billion, and that both represent increases in real terms.

The report proclaims that "economic and social policy has therefore come to elevate individual freedom as the paramount goal and the dimension of the community has been neglected" and states that for a considerable number of the poor "the picture looks bleaker than it did in 1985".

Yes it does, but only because inflation has returned to plague us. But the report has nothing to say about this, or how money is to be found for the potentially never-ending rise in potential claimants on the public purse. One sentence alone makes common sense. The report declares that over the next five years those who take poverty seriously must talk about the principles of the welfare state and the philosophy behind the move from universal to targeted means-testing benefits. Quis pro? And that means talking about ways and means. If the church insists on setting up committees on political economics, let it do so properly, talking about where the money it wants to spend is to come from and stop treating it as a kind of manna.

If it wishes to play in the game of political economy, it had better set up its own committee of ways and means.

## Guests, welcome and uninvited

On Monday evening a friend came to dinner, a vintage friend circa 1952. I had a nightclub in Chelsea at the time and he, an undergraduate, would come and help with the washing-up when my regular kitchen porter was overcome by St Patrick's Day. Later he became a captain of cricket and I got my own back, playing for his team. I went to his wedding; he became godfather to my third child. Then when I was in Parliament and he an academic I used to be invited to come and shout at his customers — though our politics differed substantially. In short a genuine friend.

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## THIS UNSPORTING LIFE

The two Welsh weightlifters, disgraced at the Commonwealth Games for taking steroids, will receive scant public sympathy. They cheated. By doing so, they have damaged the Games, this country and their sport. This is especially sad because their reputation for good-natured competition has earned them the sobriquet "The Friendly Games". After all the political discord of recent years it looked as if this gathering in New Zealand might once more justify that pleasant title.

They have badly let down their compatriots from Wales, who have won a record basketful of medals and were contemplating a glorious homecoming. Indeed not only Wales but the whole of Britain will probably suffer, through a 12-month ban on all of its weightlifters from appearing in international competition. That is hard on those who have not themselves transgressed. But their sport must shoulder some responsibility for its failure to eradicate the practice. It is only by taking draconian measures now that the authorities will stamp out the growing abuse.

Memories are still fresh of the 1988 Olympic Games at which the Canadian sprinter, Ben Johnson, was stripped of his gold medal after winning the 100 metres. The athlete was disgraced — yet banned for only two years from competitive running. Negotiations have begun for his return to the track this year for a reported "multi-million dollar" sprint against Carl Lewis — who was eventually given the gold medal in Seoul. A two-year ban with a small fortune at the end of it hardly sounds like an adequate deterrent.

In this respect one must commend the British Amateur Weightlifters' Association which will almost certainly ban Ricky Chaplin and Gareth Hives (the offenders in Auckland) for life. Weightlifters, more than any other sportsmen, are tempted to take body-building drugs. An Indian competitor has also been disqualified in Auckland, while an Englishman failed a drugs test last October while taking part in trials in this country. It is imperative

that the sport's own authorities convince competitors that the risk is not worthwhile.

Methods of detection have improved. By testing the medal winners in all events, plus a random selection of others taking part, the organizers should be able to catch out those who break the rules. But the numbers detected, though relatively small, suggest (as *The Times* has frequently maintained) that a much bigger problem lurks beneath the surface.

A partial answer may be the introduction of random out-of-competition testing, which will catch out those taking steroids during training. This would prevent them from being picked for their country in the first place. At approximately £100 a test, this is a costly burden for sports bodies. But the Sports Council will try out a regimen this year, which should act as a powerful deterrent in the future.

Even this, however, may not be enough. The use of muscle-building hormones has already spread beyond organized sports in Britain to a growing number of body-building enthusiasts. An international black market has developed, with Britain being used as a staging post for traffickers.

Yet anabolic steroids when taken in large doses, without a medical prescription, can have disturbing side-effects. There is evidence that a number of sportsmen and body-builders have been taking them in quantities far beyond those medically prescribed for patients who are genuinely underweight or undernourished. There have been reports in the United States of people suffering paranoid delusions, increased aggression and violent outbursts, leading even to murder.

The Government needs to make possession of these drugs a criminal offence, as is the case in Norway and Sweden. The US Senate is now again considering legislation. Yet the Home Office in Britain is still hesitating, despite pressure from a number of politicians — including the Minister for Sport, Mr Colin Moynihan. Perhaps this latest evidence of abuse will persuade Whitehall to act quickly.

## A PLACE IN THE SUN

The general election campaign in Japan has already begun. The election, expected to be held on February 18, will be more bitterly fought than any in Japan's post-war history. For the first time, the hegemony of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is in doubt. Also for the first time, perhaps, the outcome is important not only to the Japanese but to the rest of the world.

The vote, after months of unprecedented national soul-searching, is likely to be close. Japan's political culture has been transformed by the series of domestic and international shocks since Hirohito's death a year ago. Japan's governing élite has been badly shaken.

The Recruit influence-buying scandal led to the resignation of Mr Noboru Takeshita, the former prime minister who remains the LDP's power-broker. Then a public outcry over his association with a bar hostess forced his successor, Mr Sosuke Uno, from office.

Last May the United States branded Japan an unfair trader under the US Trade Act. Public discontent over a much-needed tax reform, which involved a 3 per cent consumer tax and the lowering of Japan's barriers against agricultural imports, underlined the increasing difficulty of reconciling economic liberalization with traditional domestic interests. The voters inflicted a crushing defeat on the LDP in elections to the Upper House last July. Japan's Socialist Party, led by the charismatic Mrs Takako Doi, suddenly became a real political force.

The LDP's leadership believes that public disgust with the penetration of politics by big business has subsided. Heavily supported by the Japanese business federation, the Keidanren, it is trying to capitalize on anxiety about the recent weakening of the yen.

Mrs Doi's party has failed to exploit last summer's triumph. It has failed to shed its Marxist baggage, its commitment to abolish

Japan's defence forces and its promise to abrogate the Japan-US security treaty. This failure has alienated other, more moderate opposition parties with which it might have formed a coalition. Even so, the LDP's majority in the Lower House is likely to be more modest than the present one of 295 seats.

Anger over the consumer tax has refused to die down: recent polls show nearly two-thirds of the electorate opposed to it, and the same proportion consider it the most important electoral issue. The Socialists used their power in the Upper House last month to pass a Bill abolishing it, which was later reversed by the LDP in the Lower House. They will seek to make the tax an issue across the country, and will also refresh voters' memories of the Recruit scandal.

If the LDP wins, it will be largely due to the growing popularity of the Prime Minister, Mr Toshiki Kaifu. Previously little known, Mr Kaifu had greatness thrust upon him last August by a leadership unable to find anybody else who was relatively untainted by either financial or sexual scandals. Mr Kaifu is unlikely to be left in office to enjoy the fruits of victory.

He was selected in part because, coming from the smallest of the LDP's factions, he could be cast aside once the crisis subsided. A decisive win might relieve him, but otherwise Mr Takeshita may force him to give way to a leading member of the party's old guard, Mr Shintaro Abe, who was also implicated in the Recruit scandal.

That would set back the rejuvenation of Japanese political life, which urgently needs to develop a modern, accountable system if it is to equip itself for a place in the world commensurate with its strength. Even more than fiscal reform, political accountability ought to be the overriding issue in this campaign.

## DOGGED DOES IT

Is Dr David Owen really necessary? Is there a role in the British parliamentary system for a politician of the centre with no visible means of support? The contribution which the leader of the Social Democratic Party made yesterday to a seminar at the Royal United Institute for Defence Studies suggests that the answer to both questions is yes.

His subject — Western European political and security perspectives — was loosely enough defined to allow him to roam freely over the landscape. The situation in Eastern Europe, the future of Nato, German reunification and the future of the European Community were all summoned into the surgery and subjected to brisk examination.

The SDP leader is impatient with those Western politicians and diplomats who argue that the break-up of the Warsaw Pact would complicate the CFE negotiations or devalue the CSCE process, arguing that the justification for signing the 1975 Helsinki Final Act was precisely that it would encourage movements like Charter 77 and protect manifestations of trade unionism like Solidarity.

Dr Owen is also critical of the Prime Minister's recent assertion that a strong German push for reunification would be no way to thank Mr Gorbachov. In his view, it is way to thank Mr Gorbachov. In his view, the Soviet would be ill-conceived to grant the German Union any *droit de regard* over German reunification. The idea, in present circumstances, of invoking the Four-Power Agreement over Berlin as a way of overriding what he regards as the absolute right of self-determination, he describes as "risible".

His views about Mr Gorbachov are notably unsugary. It is, he says, "sheer folly" to regard him as one of nature's democrats, as someone who needs to be rewarded for accepting the reality of the decline of the Soviet empire. Mr Gorbachov is still a communist, "and probably still the Leninist he repeatedly claims to be". (Dr Owen obviously does not intend this as a

compliment; perhaps he has forgotten that towards the end of his life Lenin wrote "every time you are faced with a choice between doctrine and reality, choose reality".)

Dr Owen's message to Mr Gorbachov is that a common European home is alive and well and is called the European Community. He asserts flatly that the Soviet Union lost its economic claim to superpower status a decade ago. He overstates the extent to which its military status has been eroded, but he is sensitive to its security anxieties, and concedes that the most pressing of them relates to the military profile of a united Germany.

He believes that this would best be met by a declaration by Nato that if Germany were to become united, the alliance would no longer seek to deploy any forces from countries outside Europe on German soil. He urges, however, that this should be a Nato initiative, and he is adamant that there should be no concession to the Russians that there is any equivalence in the stationing of Soviet forces in Eastern Europe and US forces in Western Europe.

One of the traditional benefits of opposition is that it gives politicians a degree of leisure. Relieved of ministerial burdens, they can take a long view, reconsider some of their received opinions, challenge those of the Government and prepare for the time when the pendulum will swing them back into office. In the field of foreign affairs (and with the proving exception of Mr Denis Healey) it is not something which the Labour Party is currently very good at.

Although it is fashionable to deride Dr Owen as a leader without a party, he still effortlessly upstages opposition leaders who have that advantage. Some of his ideas are better than others. By the standards of the present day, he expresses them in a manner that is notably unpartisan. In his dogged way, he is exercising an important function. He remains a substantial politician.

## Disbanding of a BBC 'big band'

From Mr David Whitaker  
Sir, A performance by the BBC Radio Orchestra to be transmitted this week under my baton coincides with the sad news that the orchestra is to be disbanded (report, January 27). I will be but one of the millions who has enjoyed the excellence of its combined musicianship.

May I suggest an alternative to the government: rather than resort to the inevitable and archaic method of pruning away the musicians first when times are getting hard, they could combine the Radio Orchestra with the Concert Orchestra and create a new BBC Pops Orchestra which would eventually emerge as a world-class orchestra in this category, and second to none — the "pick of the pops".

By transmissions, public performances, and the sale of records, they will then compete with, and certainly get the better of, the Boston Pops and the millions of the *Reader's Digest* albums which already exist.

There are several millions of listeners and buyers throughout Europe who will welcome the continuance of music in the lighter vein. The BBC, which has worldwide coverage and publicity at the throw of a switch, should apply these resources to maintaining its unparalleled supremacy in the field.

Yours etc,  
DAVID WHITAKER,  
Nether Barn, Nethercote Road,  
Tackley, Oxfordshire.

From Mr Peter Seakings-Foster  
Sir, An amalgamation of the former Revue and Variety Orchestras of the 1940s, the BBC Radio Orchestra, having already seen the cost-cutting departures of three other BBC popular music orchestras in Scotland, Manchester, and the Midlands, has just celebrated its silver jubilee and appointed its first principal conductor in 10 years.

Under the popular leader, Michael Tomalin, and the baton of Iain Sutherland and an array of internationally-known guest conductors, the RO has been presenting four shows per week on the Radio 2 network, and recorded inserts into many other programmes. Subject to contractual obligations, it has also been in ever-increasing demand for public performances around the country: mostly "live" or recorded concerts for later broadcast transmission.

There can indeed be few orchestras of its type today whose versatility is economic in itself, regularly splitting itself into smaller units as necessary — not least among them the ever-popular BBC Big Band. It is as a part of the full Radio Orchestra aggregate that the Big Band's distinctive character should continue to entertain millions.

Yours faithfully,  
P. SEEKINGS-FOSTER,  
43 Stanway Road,  
Coventry, West Midlands.

## Dying in hospital

From Mrs Sheila Dilks  
Sir, In reply to Mary Jane Wallace's letter (January 20), I have worked in the NHS for 18 years. During that time I have never refused, or seen refused, a relative of a dying patient the right to stay overnight. I admit we do not often have a spare bed, but do offer the most comfortable chair.

Working practices can always be improved and I hope in the future we can extend this service. In the meantime I would reassure any future NHS patient that they need not die alone, at least at any hospital.

Yours faithfully,  
SHEILA DILKS,  
12 Clarendon Close, Wimmerh,  
Wokingham, Berkshire.

## Condition reports

From Mr J. Quine  
Sir, When will hospitals find a more suitable adjective than "comfortable" to describe the condition of badly injured patients in their care?

Recent examples are an 88-year-old woman who was raped and lay for 24 hours on the floor of her home suffering from shock and hypothermia; a teenage boy who received multiple fractures in both legs in a car accident; and last night the same word was quoted by a radio newscaster concerning an 11-year-old girl savagely mauled by a bull terrier. Would not "recovering" be kinder and more accurate?

Yours faithfully,  
J. QUINE,  
The Little House, Spa Esplanade,  
Hemel Bay, Kent.  
January 17.

## Hong Kong rights

From Mr Norman Tebbit, CH,  
MP for Chingford (Conservative)  
Sir, Mr Moman's article in your edition of January 29 is a welcome and offensive rebuttal of a number of views which I have neither expressed nor hold. However, as he should know, it is a fact that Britain was not a multicultural multinational society before the 1960s and the proposition to make it one was never put to the British electorate.

Approve of it or disapprove of it as one may, it is simply impossible to reasonably claim that people here were ever asked to vote on it. What is more, I have made plain in word and deed that I entirely oppose unfair discrimination on grounds of colour or religion.

None the less in one important paragraph Mr Moman puts his

## Anomalies in test of parenthood

From Dr R. G. D. Newill  
Sir, You report (January 22) that some Scottish peers are becoming alarmed lest the blue blood of Scottish aristocracy becomes contaminated with the red blood of semen donors. This alarm is based on the assumption that the father of a child born following donor insemination is always the donor of the semen.

This is not necessarily the case, since any man who is producing sperm, however few, could be the actual father of his child providing he is living with the child's mother. It is quite impossible to prove that he is not, since he cannot be compelled to submit to blood or other tests.

This applies equally to men who have been declared sterile on the strength of semen analysis. I have known of two couples referred for artificial insemination by donor (AID) on the grounds of the husband's total sterility, where the husband has subsequently impregnated his wife and his fertility has been confirmed by myself.

It is normal practice for couples who have a child following AID to register the husband as the child's father. This practice is not necessarily dishonest, since he could well be the child's actual father. Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT NEWILL,  
Fern Court, 39 Park Road,  
Aldeburgh, Suffolk.  
January 23.

## Unwanted fathers

From Mrs Ian W. Merry  
Sir, In my six years as a social worker with one-parent families, for the Diocese of Winchester, I frequently encountered unmarried mothers who were most anxious that "the father" should have no hold over them or their child, nor know their whereabouts.

In the permissive late seventies and early eighties, these young women might have had only brief contact with the man in question, or might have grown to dislike or mistrust him on better acquaintance. Some had turned out to be violent, some to have criminal records, some to be married, some were still schoolboys.

Instead of merely stonewalling the importunate enquiries of social security officials and being branded as unco-operative, such young women found it easier to say that they had no idea who the father might be. In some cases, of course, this was true.

Yours faithfully,  
ROSEMARY E. MERRY,  
3 The Grange,  
Hartley Wintney,  
Hampshire.  
January 22.

From his Honour Lyall Wilkes  
Sir, Your leader (January 18) on paternal responsibility is clearly correct when it suggests that the very special debt to maintain one's child should be made a matter for the criminal law to enforce. At the moment, the more civil debt arising from an attachment of earnings order is avoided and evaded and discharged by the father leaving his job as soon as he hears the order has been made.

The problem is compounded by the fact that many one-parent mothers will prefer the easier option of State benefit rather than playing any part in incurring the hostility of the father in any attempt to make him pay. It is mothers as well as fathers who have to be persuaded that it is right that fathers be compelled to support their children.

What we are reaping today is the whirlwind from Government and

From Mrs Jane Mellor  
Sir, It seems that Mrs Thatcher's speech at the National Children's Home (report, January 17) struck a positive note with a large section of the public when she addressed the complex issue of maintenance payments by absentee fathers. Is it not curious, then, that this same Government is at present negotiating a Bill through Parliament which will create the very situation that Mrs Thatcher is so eager to avoid?

The current Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill will, through clause 4(1)(b), allow women who are neither married nor co-habiting to become parents through artificial insemination using donated sperm (AID). In addition, clause 27 of the Bill says that the man who has donated sperm will not be considered as the father of the child (unless it is his wife who is inseminated).

The full impact of these clauses is that national resources may legally be used to encourage single parenthood and that the children born to single women in these circumstances statutorily would have no father. Cannot the Government see the financial and moral inconsistency of this aspect of the Bill?

Yours faithfully,  
JANE MELLOR (Research Officer,  
Care (Christian Action Research  
& Education),  
53 Romney Street, SW1.  
January 29.

Church support in the cause of easy divorce (see the Church's document, *Putting Asunder*). The aftermath of broken homes, of children fleeing from home and "sleeping rough" to escape from step-parents with whom they do not get on, are only some of the symptoms of this breakdown.

At the moment legally-aided divorce is an expensive subsidised self-inflicted wound on the community, and restoring "conduct" as an eventual element in the granting of divorce decrees is called for. The divorce laws have become as amoral as some of the people they seek to serve.

Yours faithfully,  
LYALL WILKES,  
The Gin-Gan,  
Ogle,  
Newcastle upon Tyne.  
January 18.

From Mr John D. Crosthwaite  
Sir, In your leader you advocate, clearly, your support for the Prime Minister's initiative in closing the loopholes on deserting fathers avoiding maintenance of their children following divorce, and few would disagree with this principle.

However, it is to be hoped that Government will, at the same time, review and clarify the relationship between the two elements of ancillary relief. Namely, the adjustment of capital assets and income between the parties, which at present are viewed separately by the courts. There are many cases where, after the courts have exercised their discretion in this respect, the parent with custody has abdicated responsibility by evicting the child.

It would be a travesty if paternal responsibility in these circumstances was trapped with a financial obligation as a debt, owed to the State, through Revenue means as a tax or any other statutory device, following property adjustment, lump sum and periodical payment orders, made in good faith by the courts.

Yours truly,  
JOHN D. CROSTHWAITE,  
5 Ranelagh Place,  
New Malden, Surrey.  
January 22.

## Manchester poll tax

From the Leader of Manchester City Council  
Sir, On January 23 you published a story claiming that "creative accounting" deals by the city council could push up Manchester's 1990-91 poll tax to £733 per head.

This is the shocking figure which, the City Treasurer reports, would be required next year just to maintain services at their 1989-90 levels. It is the direct result of withdrawal of Government financial support, particularly the £104 million which Manchester has lost through Government redistribution of the income from its new unified business rate.

You failed to mention that the city council's so-called creative accounting schemes have benefited Manchester residents enormously, bringing more than £100 million of extra funding to the city during the past four years. This enabled the council to protect jobs and services which, unhappily, are

now threatened by the onerous poll tax.

Incidentally, the Government has now declared that Manchester will gain so greatly from the introduction of poll tax that each of its residents must pay £71 next year to help poll tax payers in less fortunate parts of the country — a malicious joke lost on the people of Manchester.

What will Manchester's actual poll tax level be? For about three months, the city council has been assuring everyone, including newspapers which would listen, that it would not impose a tax anywhere near £700. It is aiming to get the figure down nearer £400, a desperate task which deserves understanding rather than aspersions by the press.

Sincerely,  
GEOFFREY STRINGER,  
Leader,  
Manchester City Council,  
Town Hall,  
Manchester M60.  
January 29.

## Ways of handling aggressive dogs

From his Honour Michael Argyle, QC, and Mrs Argyle  
Sir, Of course no condolences can help the agonised and grieving parent of the little girl killed by a Rottweiler. Nor (if it really be true) can anyone justify obscene messages from Rottweiler owners or desecration of the grave.

But the position is not helped by incoherent language or a policy of extermination, as proposed by Bernard Levin (January 29). Rottweilers are very strong and respond well to whatever training they receive.

Of course, some are obviously owned or handled by inadequate or irresponsible people, and it is to be recognised that a minority of them may act unpredictably. But our three daughters, as tiny children, loved and were loved by their grandmother's Rottweilers — one bitch and, later, one dog. Such cases are legion, but it seems impossible to get the media to recognise this.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL ARGYLE  
(Vice-President, Midland Rottweiler Club),  
ANN ARGYLE (Immediate Past President),  
The Red House, Fiskerton,  
Nr Southwell, Nottinghamshire.  
January 30.

From the Chairman of the London Boroughs Association  
Sir, No sensible person — and I include even the most fervent dog lover — could argue with Bernard Levin's conclusions on the need for some form of legislation to control potentially dangerous dogs.

The London Boroughs Association has proposed that the Government should take advantage of the impending review of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 to include such "pets" as Rottweilers, pit bull terriers, and other dogs which are clearly bred for their strength and aggression. Under these proposals, the breeding, selling, and owning of specific categories of dogs would be restricted to licence-holders, with local authorities having the right to refuse licences to anyone considered unsuitable.

It is imperative that new legislation to control aggressive dogs is brought in quickly in the light of the Government's failure to introduce a nationwide dog registration scheme, with a realistic licence fee, as argued for by the RSPCA, ourselves, and many other organisations.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER BOWNNESS, Chairman,  
London Boroughs Association,  
23 Buckingham Gate, SW1.  
January 29.

## Homes without TV

From Mr Alan Essex-Crosby  
Sir, The outbreak of bumbledom in Durham described by Mr Gerald Bonner (January 22) inspired by his refusal to complete and return an enquiry form issued from the Bristol computer does not surprise me. Over almost 20 years I have been receiving forms asking why I have no TV licence, with visits from inspectors. They hunt after dark like the dustbin fauns!

On the last occasion I sent a copy of the form (which I had completed and returned) to my MP. I made then a suggestion that the burden of chasing TV defaulters should be put on the TV trade explaining how this could be done.

My letter having been passed on to the Minister of State, Home Office, in due course I received a copy of his reply explaining that the Records Office maintains a computerised list of addresses throughout the country with a note against each one as to whether or not a licence is held. The minister added: If your constituent confirms that there is no television in use at his address he should not be troubled again for some time.

However, in all I have had to deal with this situation at least seven times. The minister completely ignored my suggestion for an alternative system. Yours truly,  
A. ESSEX-CROSBY,  
3 Brantwood Court,  
Brantwood Rise,  
Banbury,  
Oxfordshire.  
January 23.

## A knotty question

From Mr M. Lynas  
Sir, My own preference is for the end of a tie to just reach the belt line (letters, January 20, 27). But surely, the really knotty question must be concerned with how to achieve this precise position first time, every time, when ties are all different lengths.

Yours faithfully,  
M. LYNAS,  
Muirfield, Foxgrove Lane,  
Felixstowe,  
Suffolk.  
From Mrs Katharine Minchin  
Sir, In the matter of making ends meet the onlooker sees more of the game. Ends level with the last visible button often leave a great deal too much shirt visible to the onlooker in an area most men would prefer not to be drawn to attention. Ends to the "belt-line" thus avoid ridicule and cleaning bills as the shorter version often appears in the soup.  
Yours faithfully,  
KATHARINE MINCHIN,  
Kilross, Lutetia Road,  
Easebourne,  
Midhurst,  
West Sussex.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.











## BOOKS

Victoria Glendinning on private writing of a butterfly of literature and a literato of butterflies

VLADIMIR NABOKOV  
Selected Letters,  
1940-1977  
Edited by Dmitri Nabokov  
and Matthew J. Bruccoli  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £29.95

I want to draw your attention to the fact that my book is a lasting contribution to American literature. Nabokov wrote to a publisher about *Bend Sinister*. Nabokov suffered, but not from self-doubt.

These letters are chosen from the vast archive in Montreal, to illuminate his professional life as an author after his emigration to America, and are mostly addressed to publishers, editors, academics, and other literati. Many of them are written by, or dictated to, his wife Vera and signed by her; she was always about her master's business. Some of his letters to his family (very loving and tender), funny letters, letters about his work on butterflies, and letters illustrating his personal philosophy ("Writers have no social responsibility") are included, to provide context.

"I have never been able to push my books - even gently," he told an editor in 1941. He left fast. "What are you doing in the way of publicity? When are you sending out that announcement?" he asked Harpers, about to publish *Speak, Memory*. "Have you tried to get any of the so-called 'book clubs' interested...?" He was, as he put it, royally indifferent to "incompetent reviews", believing the only thing that helped a book commercially was "a sustained advertising campaign, lots of ads everywhere". He harried his publishers until he got them. (How meek most authors are, in comparison.) "After all, literature is not only fun, it is also business."

He was equally tough about the way his books looked. He told George Weidenfeld that the proposed jacket for *Invitation to a Beheading* was "atrocious, disgusting", and the cover for the paperback of *The Eye* "meaningless and repulsive". Precision was his mania. He would give only written answers to interviewers' questions, because he thought his own speaking style was so slipshod. He would not have his book reviews touched - "botched and butchered" - by literary editors. Surprisingly he quite liked being photographed, and gaily suggested to *Life*, in connection with a piece about butterflies, that "some fascinating photos might also be taken of me, a burly but agile man, stalking a rarity or sweeping it into my net from a flowerbed, or capturing it in mid-air".

He was more agile, better read, and simply cleverer, than his editors and publishers, whom he chided for not perceiving the coded jokes, acronyms, puns, and anagrams which he wove into his prose. He also mocked those critics - the "abal critics" - who spotted symbols and references which were not, in his



GLYNIS BOYD HART

## Lolita letters

opinion, there at all. You couldn't win, with Nabokov.

He was feverishly perfectionist about the translations of his Russian books into English, and his English-language books into other languages, controlling the whole process and checking every page. His son Dmitri, who co-edited this volume, was the only translator he really trusted. He wouldn't have women translators ("I am frankly homosexual on the

subject of translators") and damned Constance Garnett's rendering of Gogol as "dry shit".

This book includes pages and pages of listed corrections to translations, proofs, editorial suggestions, and his own original texts - something to marvel at, for non-specialists, rather than to read. Sometimes he slipped up himself, or rather "Father erred" as his son puts it. But style and substance undergo "a horrible and

bleeding distortion when translated into another tongue", Nabokov wrote. He himself suffered agony, switching from Russian to English in the 1940s.

*Invitation* might be "by far the greatest English (sic) novel of this century", but in general Nabokov could not tolerate rivals near the throne. T. S. Eliot and Thomas Mann were "big fishes", Pound "diagnosing and entirely second-rate", Saul Bellow "a miserable

mediocrity". He could praise too - he spotted the quality of Edmund White from his first novel - but his talent was for fulmination. It was a spill-over from his own passion to excel and his belief in his own work. His commitment is breathtaking.

He wrote his novels in pencil entirely on 4 x 6 index cards - 1075 of them for *Pale Fire* - and could only work "in an almost Prussian silence". He avoided the public aspect of authorship ("Socially, I am a cripple"), declining honorary degrees, conferences, and all public debate. He sent an icy reply to *The New York Times* Book Review, refusing to write an open letter to Solzhenitsyn when he first arrived in the West, without divulging that he had already written him a private letter of welcome.

He was engaged, in November 1951, "in the composition of a novel, which deals with the problems of a very moral middle-aged gentleman who falls very innocently in love with his stepdaughter, a girl of thirteen". The rest is history, i.e. *Lolita*. The long middle section of this volume consists of correspondence about the difficulties surrounding the publication of what he called his "enormous, mysterious, heart-breaking novel". He knew there would be trouble. "This great and only thing has had no precedent in literature." But *Lolita* was not pornographic. "The tragic and the obscene exclude each other," Nabokov had in fact a connoisseur's appreciation of the nude, and he liked *Playboy*.

The notes provided are spare to the point of parsimoniousness. Correspondents are identified, but many little mysteries remain: "I hope Arthur Mizener did not really mean what the *New York Post* made him say." Or, "I also enjoyed the marvelous Duchess of Windsor and the Porcelain Pig." Nabokov's widow and son are fiercely protective and reticent in the aftermath of Andrew Field's biography, which was deeply resented. The footnotes document Field's alleged villainy, and leave us in the dark over much else.

But every now and then, in this austere volume, the man's special charm is revealed - as in the discreet couplet he addressed to Dmitri in Italy when worried, as Dmitri explains in a footnote, about the possible consequences of his son's amorous adventures: "In Italy, for his own good, A wolf must wear a Riding Hood."

## A la recherche des Sixties perdus

FICTION

Sabine Durrant

ROCKING THE BOAT

By Ian Ross

Heinemann, £12.99

WHALE MUSIC

By Paul Quarrington

Secker &amp; Warburg, £12.95

MALACHY &amp; HIS FAMILY

By Carlo Gebler

Hamish Hamilton, £12.99

THE WAITING ROOM

By Mary Morris

Hamish Hamilton, £12.99

In Ian Ross's *Rocking the Boat*, the world is a strangely hospitable place. The sun shines, landladies smile, and the King's Road is a surging sea of models and laughing hairdressers. The life of Paul Shaw, 19 years old and entrepreneur, is like listening to Cliff Richard's "Summer Holiday" over and over again.

Not that our hero would be interested in anything as twee as a London Transport Red Rover. More his ticket are MGs, pirate radio stations, and a glamorous socialite called Natasha. In dual pursuit of romantic and pecuniary success, he jitters from basement nightclubs in Soho to country houses in Ireland, all the while caught up in a heady whirl of fashion designers, record producers, and gentlemen of deception.

If coincidence plays a heavy hand in Paul Shaw's fate, it comes in the form of chance meetings that for once do not strain credulity. The wry lightness of Ian Ross's touch, the amphetamine tumble of events, the crashing torrent of name-drops convince that in *memory* anyway, the Sixties were like that.

The stars are stagnant tonight whinges the narrator of Paul Quarrington's *Whale Music*. "The Great and Little Bears" are hibernating. Orion has taken off his belt, laid down his sword, he's eating a TV dinner and watching "I Love Lucy". In this book romance is the victim of attrition; if "Summer Holiday" is being played, it's at 33.

Desmond Howell, formerly of the teen-dream Howell Brothers, is junk-fooding his life away in a reclusive, stimulant-strewn mansion in L.A. Disenchanted with the industry that he believes used his songs, took his wife, and destroyed his sibling/partner, he now exerts all his musical genius on creating sounds to woo the whales that circle his cliff-top refuge.

The image of this big, blubbery, unhappy man, feeding off Bournvita, jam-injected pastries, and bad memories, is a pitiful one. But any suspicion of his sanity is dispelled by the visits of his grasping family, friends, and former managers (who drop in from time to time to feel for cheques behind the sofa), and by the arrival of a beautiful "alien" from the distant planet of "Toronto". Gradually he learns to exorcise the terrors of the past and the horrors of the present.

The erosion of romantic expectation is central, too, to Carlo Gebler's *Malachy & His Family*. A young boy from New Jersey comes to England to meet

the father he has never met and finds, in the bargain, a half-brother, a half-sister, and stepmother. The boy Malachy is an outsider in his own family. He is drawn to them but excluded, fascinated but embarrassed by his fascination.

The women of the clan - his stepmother's own ghostly mother included - form the nub of the narrative. Chapters are dedicated to their histories and childhoods; their every emotional nuance is noted. Through their relation to each other, a claustrophobic picture is drawn of the dependencies and destructions of family life. Oddly, though, while it is a sexual obsession with his half-sister that prompts Malachy to start his journal in the first place, he gradually erases himself from the writing. The result is strangely dislocated; it is the rites without the passage.

The unhappiness of three generations of women also stains the pages of Mary Morris's *The Waiting Room*. Naomi, who fled to America from the pogroms of Russia, buried the man of her dreams on her wedding day; June, her daughter, found her husband was love-scared by the Second World War; and her daughter Zoe lost her childhood sweetheart in Vietnam. When Zoe returns to her Midwest hometown to visit her brother in the local mental hospital, the tales of the three women are interwoven, creating a bond between them that belies their apparent coolness. So strong is the bond that, let your attention wander just a little, and it becomes hard to distinguish between them. Even Mary Morris gets them muddled. "It was the same house Zoe and Cal had put a down payment on when they married", she miswrites at one point, conjuring an incestuous partnering between father and daughter.

In Saturday's Books Pages:  
Thomas Pynchon's long-expected  
*Vineland*, D. J. Enright, *Jazz*  
*Cleopatra*, Oliver Sacks, thrillers,  
Marie of Roumania, Victorian  
lady travellers, paperback fiction

## Latin lover and performing flea

David West

OVID

The Love Poems  
Translated by A. D. Melville  
Oxford, £15

Ovid is the performing flea of Latin poetry and no translator could hope to jump so high or draw such gilded coaches; but Melville has worked a miracle. It is difficult to imagine that there will ever be an English version so faithful to the Latin, and written in such sound and engaging verse.

Melville insists on rhyme, believing that the brilliance of Ovid's verse cannot be reproduced without it; but he avoids the tedium of an unvarnished diet of rhyming couplets by using a variety of metres, notably a Melvillian quatrains:

Your husband will be there at the same dinner  
I wish your husband his last meal tonight.  
I'm just a guest then, gazing at my darling  
While at your touch another takes delight.  
And you to warm another's breast will struggle  
While round your neck his arm at will he throws.  
No wonder that for fair Hippodamia,  
When wine went round, the Centaurs came to blows.

But the translator can't win. There is a gain in suppleness and variety, but it does not compensate for the loss of the Ovidian glitter.

Another difficulty for the translator is the level of Ovid's language. It is so plain, natural, and easy. When he was young he found it difficult to write prose but the poetry flowed - at *quod temptatum scribere, versus erat*. There are moments when this translation sounds a little dated. This would never have done for Ovid, who was above all a creature of his age:

The good old days indeed! I am, thanks be,  
This age's child: it's just the age for me.

Perhaps, after all, the answer is to drop rhyme and find a scholar poet. Guy Lee in 1968 was further from the Latin but closer to the Ovidian spirit:

Your husband? Going to the same dinner as us?  
I hope it chokes him.  
You'll lie there snuggling up to him? He'll put his arm round your neck whenever he wants?

You would not know it from the title page, but the introduction explains that when we leave the *Amores* and come to the *Ars Amatoria*, we are reading not Melville's translation, but his modernization of the dazzling 1935 version by B. P. Moore. For example, when ladies go to the theatre:

"They come to look and to be looked at too..."  
(spectantur veniunt, veniunt spectantur at ipsoe)  
"Secure the mistress first: postpone the maid..."  
"Gods have their uses: let's believe they're there..."  
"I hate a wench who gives because she's bound,  
While coldly thinking of the wool she's wound."  
I like not joy bestowed in slay's fee.  
I'll have no woman dustful to me."

Delicious. And yet. And yet. Although it has all the "snap and tang" of the Ovidian elegiac, the fixed rhyme and the fixed number of syllables make it just that little less genial. It clays quicker. Rhyme is tremendous fun in Byron and Gilbert. It can't be much fun for a faithful translator.

These are astonishing poems, and Melville (and Moore) have worked wonders with them, all the more so since Melville finds Ovid's attitude to women offensive, and the poems heartless. But surely Ovid is at play, and the elegiac lover and the elegiac mistress are pawns in his game. The man himself is generous, joyous, warm-hearted, right-minded, sunny-natured. The world he creates is a fantasy world, like Mr Woodhouse's, and like Mr Woodhouse's "it will never sale... but will continue to release finite generations from captivity that may be more irksome than our own". To condemn Ovid's attitude to women is like condemning Woodhouse's attitude to snits.

Like the biblical prophets, Amos Oz pulls no punches in his desire to describe the desperate moral situation in which Israel finds itself. The dilemma underlying this sequence of articles by Israel's leading author and radical is that because of its genesis and subsequent history, Israel has developed an unreasonable obsession with defence. It has become a modern Sparta, a phalanx with its spears pointing outwards, and inwards too.

This defensiveness and inflexibility, Oz argues, paradoxically weakens Israel, as its citizens will become reluctant to defend the untenable position of retaining territories captured in 1967. It will have difficulty maintaining national cohesion, as the idea of a unified state becomes attenuated through internal conflict. Only territorial concessions will both ensure Israel's future prosperity and restore its collective moral fibre.

All writers on Israel face the task of defining the Holocaust, and its relevance to the origins of the Jewish state. Thousands of explanations have been proposed about the effect that genocide had on the Jewish psyche. Oz suggests a theory in order to explain the protectiveness which, he feels, holds Israel in a state of stagnation. He achieves a cunning insight in doing so: the essence of the civil war is the imaginative use of deception. This idea is contained in Claude Lanzmann's film *Shoah*, which Oz discusses in a group of articles, seeking to show that the evil genius behind the final solution was to hide from the victims any knowledge of their ultimate fate, by masking it with elaborate deceptions. The masters of the Holocaust carefully maintained this mass delusion, by insisting that everything be couched in the language of faceless, grey bureaucracy.

The contrast between distortion and eventual reality, and the power that deception brings to those clever enough to use it, are skilfully described, in a disembodied voice that expresses the futility of even trying to translate the Holocaust into the language of reality. Oz succeeds, however, in suggesting something of the kind of imagination used to achieve such deception.

It is against such imaginations ever succeeding again that many Israelis are anxious, even neurotic, to build defences. Oz argues that territorial concessions do not mean exposing Israel to the same risk of deception, and that such defences are useless against disturbances within the occupied terri-

## Israel as ostrich

John Slepokura

THE SLOPES OF LEBANON

By Amos Oz

Translated by Maurice Goldberg-Barbara Chatto &amp; Windus, £13.95

tories. His more subtle conclusion is that the Jewish state has yet to come to terms with the Holocaust, the memory of which still shapes Israel's policy-making excessively.

*The Slopes of Lebanon* is written with absolute conviction and passion, and the controversial ideas are never mere provocations, but developed, structured arguments. The confident assertions in the ideas will convert many, if only by the simple deduction upon which Oz's call for territorial concessions rests: that a Palestinian state, ruled

by the PLO or by anybody else, cannot possibly be a threat to Israel, with its vastly superior military capability.

The major weakness of this daring collection is that it fails to address itself directly to those who would oppose such theories. Oz has no difficulty in exposing the crude dogmas of the Right, but he relies on unconscious dogmas of his own which his opponents would reject immediately. This lack of mutual understanding on both sides can only add to the polarization that already exists in Israeli society.

The depiction of the zealot Michael Sommo in his latest novel *Black Box*, a quintessentially regressive fanatic, whose whole identity is derived from his religiosity, says something about the fear with which Oz views such people; and he clearly has little patience for their convictions and attitudes. But they are a growing force demographically, and will have considerable political clout in 20 years' time. If his ideas are to influence any beyond the Progressive Left of the Labour Party and the Israeli Writers Association, it is to these groups that he will have to present his ideas, to convince them that no other alternative exists. A more formidable challenge, involving a more intractable set of adversities, can hardly be imagined.

## NEW HARDBACKS

The Library Editor's selection of interesting books:

Goya, by José Gudiol (Thames & Hudson, £12.95) Masters of Art. I Have Sinned, Charles Napier in India, 1841-1844, by Patricia Napier (Michael Russell, £16.95) The annex of Sind, Peccavi, by descendant. The Merry Wives of Windsor, by William Shakespeare, edited by T. W. Craik (Oxford, £27.50) State-of-art text and short notes on same page. The Long Gray Line, West Point's Class of 1906, by Rick Atkinson (Collins, £15) Vast reports of the harrowed Vietnam generation. Politics & Production in the Early Nineteenth Century, by Clive Behag (Routledge, £30) Social history mined from Birmingham. Voyage to the Whales, by Hal Whitehead (Robert Hale, £12.95) Three-year expedition, scientific Moby-Dick-watching in Indian Ocean. World War II, A 50th Anniversary History, by the writers and photographers of The Associated Press (Robert Hale, £14.95)

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HEALTH

# Born to be whole

**S**urgery on the unborn seemed, until recently, an impossible dream. Now, with the world's first heart operation on a baby still in his mother's womb at Guy's Hospital, plus a series of perhaps even more extraordinary procedures in America, fantasy has become fact.

The pioneering techniques to date have been used to give otherwise doomed babies at least a fighting chance of life. But their implications are far wider: what is learnt and developed in these early days may ultimately affect the lives of millions.

In plastic surgery in particular, the unborn child may well be father to the man. Experts believe that within a few years they will not only be able to correct defects before birth, but by understanding the mechanisms of foetal healing they will be able to help adults disfigured by trauma.

Much of this optimism springs from work done by Dr Michael Harrison, head of the foetal treatment programme at the University of California in San Francisco. He has performed the only operation so far where the foetus is actually removed from the uterus for surgery - either partially or wholly - and then replaced.

The defects tackled in this way have been of three main kinds: diaphragmatic hernias, where the abdominal contents protrude into the chest cavity, preventing lung development; blocked ureters in male foetuses, causing kidney dilation and lack of amniotic fluid, which in turn inhibits lung growth; and sacral tumours at the base of the spine which, though benign in themselves, take so much blood that they cause cardiac failure.

The defects were discovered by routine scans at around 16 weeks and the operations carried out at between 22 and 26 weeks, when the foetuses were about 8in long and 1lb in weight.

The hernia problems are the most difficult - apart from all the other considerations the procedure is technically complex, and only one baby out of six has survived. The bladder operations have been more successful - four out of six babies have survived, as have the two who have undergone tumour surgery. Without surgery, all would have died.

David Whitby, senior registrar in plastic surgery at St James's Hospital, Leeds, spent several months with Harrison last year and is due to return to California for a further year's research in July. He says: "A lot of patients were sent for consideration, but the technique could only be used on a few. You have to assess which ones would not survive without it, and then within that group you have to find the ones where the abnormality has not become so great that you cannot correct it."

The operation itself, he says, involves opening the uterus "as in a Caesarean" and placing the entire

The first heart surgery on a foetus in the womb has dramatic implications, not least for plastic surgery. Liz Gill reports



Baby face: foetal tissue's healing properties provide clues for wound repair

foetus, or just the part to be operated on, outside, on to the mother's abdomen. The procedure, which uses magnification and micro-surgery techniques, is kept as short as possible because of potential problems with temperature and loss of fluid, but the foetus itself does not have to be on a support system since it is still drawing its oxygen through the umbilical cord.

Post-operative medication is given to prevent premature labour, but Harrison's team has not yet been able to delay this longer than 32 weeks, at which time the babies have been delivered by Caesarean section.

"The mother is anaesthetised and so the foetus is anaesthetised through the placenta. They are closely monitored and there has been nothing to suggest they feel any pain," Whitby adds.

One of the most fascinating aspects of pre-natal surgery is the fact that foetal tissue does not appear to scar, and it is this phenomenon that may ultimately have the widest implications for conditions that are not life-threatening but are certainly life-spoiling.

"Foetal surgery is attention-grabbing because it is so dramatic, but what is also vital is that the foetus provides us with a model for ideal wound repair. It is as if the operation were invisible," he says.

"If we can discover how it works - and there seems no reason why we shouldn't - we should be able to manipulate it or duplicate it so that we can help adult wounds to heal without scarring. This would be of

extraordinary benefit to burns victims and those disfigured in a road traffic accident and other traumas, as well as children or adults with facial and other abnormalities which need plastic surgery.

Not only is scarring unsightly, it can cause physiological problems, sometimes restricting the growth of surrounding tissue or altering function: a common complication of a cleft palate repair, for instance, is that scar tissue affects flexibility.

With congenital defects, the earlier they are tackled the better: cleft palates are already done within days of birth. Being able to operate on a foetus, where the tissues have much greater elasticity and this remarkable repair mechanism, would further increase the chances of normal future growth, Whitby says, and reduce the need for a series of operations, as is often the case now.

The whole field of foetus surgery is still in its early stages, and much has yet to be resolved, not least of which are the implications for the mother. "You have, for example, to consider not only the risk of the actual operation but also her future fertility. Ordinarily the incision for a Caesarean is made low down, but with these operations you must make it into the body of the uterus. That then becomes a weak spot, and there might be a small risk that it might rupture during a subsequent pregnancy. "On the other hand, if you are producing a perfect baby at birth there must be great psychological advantages. Parents are not having to come to terms with a deformed baby."

The unanswered question, of course, is what effect all this may have on the developing baby and its personality. There is already a substantial school of thought which says that influences before birth may be as powerful as those afterwards.

"This is what we just don't know," Whitby says. "There are people who say they have memories of life in the womb. But all those who have had this operation are still too young for us to know."

## Lens wearers must clean up their act

### MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

The ability of contact lenses to boost the morale of people teased since school days about spectacles is almost as important as any improved vision they bring.

The cost paid for these advantages is the ever-present threat of corneal infection and ulceration. Hitherto patients have been taught that if they follow the manufacturers' instructions all will be well, and that it is only the negligent who suffer. A report in *Pulse* magazine has warned that there is an organism, *scandium*, at large in tap water which defies the usual recommended cleaning schedule, soaking for two to four hours in 3 per cent hydrogen peroxide.

Dr Roger Buckley of Moorfields Eye Hospital recommends overnight soaking in hydrogen peroxide to kill the organism, or boiling for half an hour, but warns that this latter action shortens the life of the lenses. Mr Ian Mackie of St George's Hospital suggests that if sterile water is not available to clean the lens, tap water should be taken from the kitchen, which usually runs off the mains, rather than from the bathroom.

Once the water-borne infection has been introduced into the eyes it seems to be stimulated by the tears and becomes difficult to treat. In the absence of anything better, Neomycin remains the treatment of choice.

### Less cutting

Traditional surgeons of the type depicted in *Doctor in the House* had a straightforward philosophy: "When in doubt, cut it out."

The huge scars of which they were proud were their trademark. Surgery is changing: gallstones and kidney stones still have to be removed, but the fragmenting power of the lithotripter has made the operation a less invasive, or even non-invasive, procedure. Inflamed appendices can now be removed through a laparoscope, leaving no more than a puncture wound; knees are operated on via an arthroscope; prostate can be shrivelled by a microwave, and soon a large percentage of hysterectomies will be avoided by using treatment which removes the lining of the womb rather than the womb itself.

### Be a nibbler

Press pictures of Alexandra Griffiths happily cradled in her mother's arms at St Thomas's Hos-

pital hours after they had been reunited not only strengthens the psychiatric view that much of the maternal bonding takes place during pregnancy and at, or immediately after, delivery, but also demonstrates the regard which south London mothers feel for the hospital. Providing this standard of service has its difficulties, for Alexandra is only one of 3,500 babies delivered annually in labour wards designed to cope with 1,500.

This week, a campaign

planned long before Alexandra became a household name has been launched to raise £3 million to improve delivery and research facilities. The fundraising activities organized by staff and former patients include the publication of a recipe book. One former patient, Deborah Cox, with total disregard for medical teaching, favours a chocolate torte dessert made from cream, butter, eggs, chocolate, instant coffee and brandy; a member of staff, Dawn Mangani, more conscious of the Health Education Authority's advice, has contributed a dish of muskell, spring onions and mixed herbs.

The book suggests food for every hour of the day, which, according to Professor David Jenkins of Toronto, is just as it should be. Canadian research has confirmed 1930s studies which showed that if people abandoned the three traditional meals a day and instead ate little and often, up to 17 times daily, they could continue to take the same amount of calories but would lose weight and have an improved blood cholesterol. In Jenkins's subjects, total cholesterol fell by an average of 8.5 per cent, and the dangerous low-density cholesterol by 13.5 per cent.

Recent editorials in *The Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal* have discussed the advantages of becoming a nibbler, for although the Jenkins regime of 17 meals a day may be impractical, there is precedent for the Jenkins case from Victorian farmworkers, who regularly managed five daily.

*The Lancet* has used the recent research to attack the increasingly popular habit among City commuters of eating one huge evening meal a day; this results in a low blood sugar during the working day, when they need to be

### Private care

Ministers as well as patients will welcome the reduction in the number of hysterectomies, which have become the subject of Health Secretary Kenneth Clarke's latest battle with the British Medical Association. The BMA feels that it is not right that lay administrators should be furnished with a list of women who have had hysterectomies so that an up-to-date record of women still needing smears can be prepared. Other doctors, conscious that the local bureaucracy already handles sensitive information about smears, prescriptions, pregnancies and even the patients' entire case notes, would rather direct their fire at the recently publicized ministerial concept that all information which a doctor acquires when dealing with his NHS patients becomes the property of the bureaucracy, rather than attacking a single issue.

at their sharpest, raised cholesterol levels, and increased weight. Twenty years ago dieticians thought that a 14st, 6ft City man could lose a stone in weight in a year if he divided his daily calorie intake into three equal portions rather than taking them all in one large meal.

● *The St Thomas's Recipe Book* costs £4.50 (or £3 inc p&p) from St Thomas's Baby Fund, Department of Gynaecology, 6th floor, North Wing, St Thomas's Hospital, London SE1 7EH.

## Training to be a higher flyer

I applied to be the first British astronaut along with 13,000 other people in mid-summer, went through the selection procedures and ended up in the final four. Two are in Moscow now (one of whom will presumably be the first astronaut) and two of us are back-ups in the UK.

The Soviets have many years' experience in space, so we are learning from them. For example, on the endoscopy test, looking at the stomach, lay duodenitis or gastritis, any sign of an ulcer or healed ulcer, excludes a person. Although it's only a seven-day mission, they don't want it in any way jeopardized by one person.

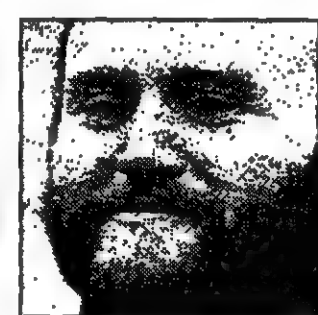
I've been slightly lucky in that I'm a navy diver and my medical interest has been occupational medicine. To maintain my qualification as a diver I have to keep a certain level of fitness which is tested once a year. I try to do a little exercise each day - my favourite time is swimming, at least twice a week, 60 lengths of the local pool. I'm fairly lazy and if I could avoid doing exercise I would, so I find that the best way for me is to run or cycle in and out of work - between two and four miles every day. My philoso-



GORDON BROOKS

ophy on food is to look at what we were designed to do before we had modern technology. We were hunter-scavengers and we ate some meat and a fair amount of whatever else was available. I don't eat much meat, mainly chicken and fish, and lots of baked beans - a much under-rated food. I don't eat much fruit but I drink a lot of juice and eat a lot of vegetables. I work best with six or seven hours' sleep, more than that and I feel lethargic the next day, but I can work (and frequently do) all through the night. I can maintain concentration for that period of time and get a job done.

I have experienced a fair amount of stress - I was in the Falklands in a ship that was



intoxicated and light-headed. I think most people found the motion sickness tests the hardest. There was one where we were zipped up into a black plastic bag on wheels and tumbled backwards and forwards on a railway line for 20 minutes. To me it felt like being in the hold of a big ship with a storm approaching so it didn't worry me. The motion sickness test is important because in the first week in space about 50 per cent of astronauts are very sick, vomiting and disoriented. This mission is only a week long and they want people to perform intricate experiments in that time, so they don't want them to be sick.

In the past there have been a lot of problems with astronauts returning and having out-of-body and religious experiences, and they were trying to exclude anybody with a tendency to this. This is a serious scientific mission with an awful lot of things to be thought about. There's also going to be a tight schedule of experiments and the last thing they want is someone going up there and saying "Gosh, how nice it is," and howling out of the window.

Interview by Pamela Nowicks

## Gadgets for life

Tina Turner keeps hers in the boot of her Range Rover, Terry Wogan waves his at passing, Mary Quant has hers in the kitchen, Christopher Wray pulls the lever on his and Anita Roddick never travels without hers. Ranging

from can-openers to computers, and hi-tech wonders to old-fashioned favourites, they are life's little essentials. Nicole Swengley presents a catalogue of gadgets belonging to well-known people in *The Times* on Saturday.

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J.M. Berles

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SOME REVIEWS MAY BE REPRINTED FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

## THE ARTS

## Lost in critical circles

TELEVISION  
Sheridan Morley

Having spent the last 25 years of my life as a drama critic, when not staring at television on your behalf, I approached last night's *Signals* on Channel 4 with a wary kind of fascination. Discussions about the role of the critic are a regular part of the job. No politician ever gets as exercised about the function of a Westminster journalist, no stockbroker ever frets about a City Editor, as much as playwrights, directors and actors agonise about the power, responsibilities and tastes of a drama critic.

It was, therefore, intelligent of *Signals* to open with a dressing-room monologue by Nicholas Craig, the mythical actor invented by Nigel Planer of *The Young Ones*, precisely to pinpoint and parody the neuroses of players when faced with the gap between themselves and reality.

It was perhaps less intelligent to see the rest of the discussion in the hothouse atmosphere of the Hampstead Theatre, thereby confining much of it to the specific anxieties of North London intellectual theatrical workers. Why can these discussions never take place in the Palladium or the Citizens' in Glasgow?

True, Joyce McMillan, combining a double rarity in being both a female reviewer and a leading Scots one at that, blasted in like a breath of Highland air, but for the rest of the debate we were treated to the usual ritual lurch around sexual and racial prejudice and whom the critic thinks he or she is employed to serve.

Nobody was ever intelligently challenged. Mike Leigh suggested that not enough critics knew enough of backstage reality, presently unsure that almost all have in their time been assistant student actors or directors or indeed professional playwrights. Timothy West thought most of us had been around too long, without ever wondering whether actors might have the same problem. Vintage clips of old John Osborne rows, or Ken Tynan bickering with Harold Hobson, only served as reminders of how little the debate has progressed in 40 years.

There was a recent storm in a tescop over whether the critic Frank Rich destroyed David Hare's last play on Broadway. The answer is that any hostile *New York Times* review always destroys a serious play on Broadway, for the simple reason that New Yorkers seem incapable of buying more than one serious paper.

With this affair as its news peg, *Signals* drifted around the usual arguments over instant journalism versus academic criticism, Tynan versus Shaw, good writing versus respectful box-office ticket salesmanship. But it did not reach any conclusions that would not have been familiar to both Hazlitt and Max Beerbohm.

At the end, it was left to Paul Giamatti to ask simply how any drama critic can ever hope to remain sane. The answer is "with difficulty", especially when faced with yet another playwright asking why critics really believe they are there to criticise.

## Yours precisely, Arthur Miller

Heather Neill on the American writer whose play *The Price* opens in London tonight and whose work, old and new, is more popular than ever before

Arthur Miller is in town. The strong, benign face — once affectionately described by the actor Bob Peck as looking, when jet-lagged, like a tired ostrich — stares out from every kind of newspaper. Whatever Douglas Hurd is up to in the States, some kind of artistic "special relationship" exists between British theatre and this man, the quintessential 20th-century American, survivor of the Depression, McCarthyism and marriage to Hollywood's Ideal Woman.

The Arthur Miller Centre was opened with today at the University of East Anglia and the plays are being revived in theatres from Lancaster to the National, from Leicester to the Young Vic, where *The Price* opens tonight. Miller has, it seems, something to say to us, both in person and through his work, which we clamour to hear.

At a press conference at the Young Vic last week, he reiterated his most familiar — and necessary — caveat: without adequate subsidy, serious British theatre will die; Broadway is an awful warning. Ironically, he has helped to put on the map one of the most under-funded theatres in London: this is the fifth Miller play to be directed by David Thacker at the Young Vic. "I like small, unsuccessful theatres", he jokes. "I like the atmosphere here. Actors become less playful when there's a million dollars riding on them." He adds simply: "They do my plays well here." But that laconic statement belies the closeness of his association with this particular director; a man of almost 75 must have good reasons for flying the Atlantic to attend rehearsals.

This is the second time he has come over during rehearsals: he was here a year ago when Helen Mirren and Bob Peck appeared in the premiere of his double-bill *Two-Way Mirror*, but his contact with Thacker goes back beyond that. News of the Young Vic's *Crucible* reached Miller via his agent in 1986. Subsequently,

Thacker worked, with the author's approval and support, on "Englishing" his version of Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*. Miller saw that production last year and wrote about it enthusiastically.

*The Price* is set in the former family home of two brothers, Victor, a policeman (played here by David Calder), and Walter (Bob Peck), a successful surgeon. Victor gave up his ambition to be a doctor in order to look after his father following his bankruptcy during the Depression; Walter escaped to achieve recognition in the wider world. Yet each has to face hard truths about his motives, about the real reason for his choice and what that has cost him. As Peck puts it: "They must get to the marrow of the bone of contention between them".

For Peck there are clear personal echoes: he happens to have a brother who is a policeman and who took most responsibility for caring for their father, while he has himself found success in theatre, film and television. Miller, he says, presents actors with characters so specific and recognizable and dialogue so real that when things are going well they scarcely feel they are acting at all. "When you act in Miller you take on a whole culture."

Thacker's hallmarks as a director are respect for the text and an emphasis on human feeling, what he has called "emotional nakedness". Given the fierce passion in his plays it is not perhaps quite so difficult to appreciate Miller's interest. He can supply the answers when Thacker requires specific information and he must be impressed by the attention to detail. "The Price seems," says Thacker, "to have been set in 1964 and that crucial conversation between the brothers to have taken place in 1936." He presented the internal evidence to Miller, who had forgotten, but corroborated the suppositions. Esther, Victor's wife, has just been for a

check-up in the first scene of the play. There are references to alcohol, but has she another illness? Miller immediately provided the answer: over-active thyroid. "It gives the actress (Marie Yates) something concrete to work with," says Thacker. These snippets of information were gleaned from trans-Atlantic telephone conversations. According to Peck, the director was on the phone before the play was cast. Yet Thacker deprecates the idea of a special relationship, merely using the same, easy-sounding formula as Miller himself: "We try to do the plays well."

Director and actors testify to Miller's supportiveness, his humour and humanity. He hung back at first last year, but soon he was improvising the unbarred responses to Bob Peck's telephone conversations in *Some Kind of Love Story*. His contribution is chiefly, as he puts it himself, "to give short cuts, to throw a light on something that might otherwise be murky". But the way he does that can be inspirational. The attitude of the cast is little short of adoring, but more because Miller is anxious to demystify than because he comes on as the great celebrity.

After the first morning's rehearsal of Miller's visit, Marjorie Yates looked as if she had been given the key to her portrayal of Victor's disappointed wife: Esther, she had been told, could have been happy living on her own. David Calder had suddenly seen his character as a radical — someone who, affected by the Depression, believed that Capitalism was coming to an end. "There's a smell of it in the text. But it's so clear now. It saves weeks."

"This," says Thacker, "is an extraordinary moment in history. People in Europe are trying to investigate the past in a truthful way, to uncover what is illusory. Miller's work is especially powerful now."

● *The Price*, directed by David Thacker, previewing from tonight at the Young Vic, London SE1, opens there next Wednesday.



Arthur Miller: he frequently visits Britain and likes "small, unsuccessful theatres"

## Spidery tale which lacks bite

THEATRE  
Benedict Nightingale

Have  
The Pit

The black widows scuttling across the Pit's muddy floor are human, but turn out to have had arachnid habits. When their husbands had served their purpose, by acquiring enough acres to be worth inheriting, they promptly poisoned them.

This apparently happened with remarkable frequency in rural Hungary between 1920 and 1929, four years before *Have* was written. For some commentators, it was explained by conjugal violence, for others by an anarchist spirit dating from the war. For the communist dramatist Julius Hay — then in prison, penning the play on lavatory paper — the reason was embodied in his one-word title. In a world where having and not having define human value, the have-nots will do anything to become haves.

It sounds dour, and at the Pit is sometimes dourer than it might be. Opportunities for wry laughter are missed. In spite of the occasional pieces of rustic flamboyance and the unexplained omni-



Wedding-day advice: Naomi Wirthner (left), and Estelle Kohler in *Have*

presence of a cackling gipsy girl, the cast never quite throw off their Englishness. Some seem not to have been nearer grubby, dangerous Transylvania than South-end. Yet somehow Janice Honeyman's production remains lucid, brisk, gripping.

Things begin false-innocently, with the poor policeman Dani (John Ramm) dreaming of marrying his wilting sweetheart Mari (Naomi Wirthner). And then, after yet another suspicious funeral, the revelations proliferate. She is pregnant by Dani; then married to a rich landowner; and then, armed with "white powder" by the local midwife, his and his crippled daughter's murderer. Her voracity increases with his violence.

Hay's point is, of course, that love, morality, everything, disappears under economic pressure. Only possession matters. And when their fortunes improve, the exploited adopt the ethics they know, those of the exploiters. It is a familiar analysis, and not always put across with great subtlety by Hay. The word "have" enters the conversation with portentous frequency. There is an enlightened priest to wonder where the "blame" lies for poverty, and a communist family to suggest that social change is possible. There is also a famous police sergeant who unconsciously mocks the powerful by idolizing them.

Yet some characterization — a flustered, self-pitying doctor, or a city sentimentalist patronizingly in search of folk culture — is marvellously idiosyncratic. In 1956 Hay was imprisoned as a dissident, and even in his communist days was too quirky to be dismissed as a glib didact.

Supporting performers — Bob Heyland, William Chubb, Rebecca Saire — come off best. But Wirthner fails plausibly to make her admittedly tricky transitions: innocence to hardness to bewilderment. And apart from one moment, when she literally lets down her hair and balefully dances, Estelle Kohler misses the wildness and danger of the play's most interesting character, the killer-midwife, Kepes. She should be the spider queen, magnificent and wild — and isn't.

Jeremy Kingston

The Naked  
Haymarket Studio,  
Leicester

After a poor attempt at a Victorian whodunit last month, the Studio Company find themselves on surer ground with an interesting Pirandello, written in the same year as *Enrico IV*, and to some extent the reverse image of it. Where the hero of *Enrico* cannot escape from a role he no longer wishes to play, the frail victim of *The Naked* cannot find his way into the role she longs to play.

An ugly episode with her married employer has left Ersilia psychologically naked, lying in her hospital bed after swallowing poison. Desperate to think of her life as containing some scrap of romance, she turns a passing affair with a naval officer into a doomed grand passion. But the story gets into the papers, her life is saved and the men in her past rush forward to dispute her account, leaving her without a stitch of romance to cover her nakedness. Like a true Pirandello character, she is trapped in the coils of her past.

When Ersilia's curiously storm-tossed manner towards the other characters is finally explained, in a

## A performance short on polish

CONCERTS  
Richard Morrison  
RPO/Ashkenazy  
Festival Hall

Joshua Bell is a young American violinist who gained some notoriety when Decca accompanied his first disc with a broadcast of hagiographic hype remarkable even by record company standards. The classical music world still clings to the old-fashioned notion that you do your great performances first, and become famous later; reversing this procedure has done Bell no favours.

His performance of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto revealed a promising talent in need of polishing. For every technically

impressive passage there was a blemish: the whizz through the finale was deft and accurate, but the double-stoppings occasionally took us into the realms of the oriental modes. His tone has a silvery distinction, but sometimes his articulation is marred by a rather harsh scoop towards the right pitch.

It is, however, his interpretation that needs most attention. At present his delivery of even the sentimental *Andante* has a cold, robotic feel. Note succeeds note, but they rarely add up to phrases that speak to the heart.

The Royal Philharmonic, under Vladimir Ashkenazy's direction, continues to be a thoroughly resilient, if not resistant, orchestra. Ashkenazy's sturdy account of Beethoven's overture *Leonora* No 3 might have served as an example to Joshua Bell of what musical

expression is all about: a passionately romantic approach to dynamics, spoilt only by some wobbly ensemble work.

Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony was played even better. Ashkenazy took a thrillingly full-blooded view of a work that sometimes seems to embarrass its executants with its blatant emotionalism.

The opening had a marvellously melodramatic atmosphere of Dostoevsky-like brooding; the waltz was by turns lilt or busting; the phrasing of the big, sweeping tunes was done with a lifting flexibility; and the finale crackled with brass power. Ashkenazy even managed to instil some fresh ideas: no mean feat with this battered old warhorse. To the first movement he added a few half-passes that seemed to intensify the Slavonic weightiness, while in the finale he brought unusual emphasis to the horns' counter-tunes.

Hilary Finch  
Suk Trio  
Wigmore Hall

memory of the composer's teacher and father-in-law, Dvorák, the work summoned forth immediately the Trio's distinctive voice: at once expansive and densely concentrated, sweet yet bitter edged, deep and generous of breadth.

In Dvorák's F minor Piano Trio, the details which fuse to articulate the group's full-hearted playing began to surface: the seemingly intuitive timing and placing of

every *pianissimo*, the leaping melodies, hard-pushed physically, yet never over-stretched musically; the sudden moments of and statement like Suk's own reticent start of the slow movement's melody.

After the interval came another work of substance, composed, like the Dvorák, against a background of bereavement and grief. Smetana's G minor Piano Trio, born from Suk's own wonderfully soaring and dipping recitative, was to give glowing prominence to both piano and cello. Hála's luminous piano playing led into the final outburst of corporate affirmation.

## Falling for the master of charm

POP  
David Toop  
Barry Manilow  
London Palladium

Having to retrieve a battery-powered flashing red rose from under my seat, dropped by the lady in seat Q11, was surely the best possible start to a charity concert given by Barry Manilow. Fifteen minutes before the curtain was due to rise, the stalls were enveloped in feverish excitement. "I feel ill, I can't be that close," squeaked one fan, moving to towards the back of the theatre for emotional refuge. Only star-spotting of the "Barbara Windsor, 'oos she married to?' variety seemed to offer any distraction during these final tense moments.

When Barry appeared, wearing a black polo-neck sweater and red jacket, there was pandemonium



Manilow: self-mocking magic and the male members of the audience looked on plumbly.

Commencing with a John F. Kennedy quote, Barry at once revealed those aspects of his act which drive stern critics to derision and otherwise self-possessed women to delirium. Awkward, vulnerable yet supremely relaxed, he appeared to sing almost as an afterthought. The soft carpet of digital strings crept underneath one of his charming autobiographical an-

ecdotes and suddenly the band was into a number.

The singing was effortless and unexceptional, but that is not the point. "Memories" was approached with a degree of subtlety not usually associated with such a drenched song. It was only delivered as a "belter" when the key changed and the military snare drum entered.

For rendition of his 1978 hit, "Can't Smile Without You", he picked Suzanne, a London bank employee, to come up from the stalls and join him on stage. These occasions can be distasteful, but Manilow coaxed her through the song gently and then presented her with a signed video of their duet.

Fans like Suzanne love to hear Barry make fun of his big nose and share his past tribulations. In the final analysis, Manilow is hard to dislike. If there is a lesson in his act for scornful critics it must be this: self-mockery has more sexual allure than self-promotion.

DANCE  
John Percival  
Doubles  
Birmingham Repertory

women, repeated and sustained balances on one leg while the other leg projects in different directions and at varied angles. These are often accompanied by crisp gestures with the hands. For the men, meanwhile, there are frequent circling jumps.

Because the choreography is uncluttered and precise, it calls for dancing of great accuracy. This is subtle combination of colours, and in the piece. There are further performances this month at Mold and York, and next month at Sadler's Wells.

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THE ARTS/FILM

David Robinson reviews the Chet Baker biopic *Let's Get Lost, Sur, Far North and Lockup*, and previews a season of pre-Revolutionary Russian films

# Till he blew himself away

The first few minutes of Bruce Weber's *Let's Get Lost* (15, Metro) are not encouraging. The dislocated images, frantic camera movement, grainy black and white images and self-conscious compositions promise a photographers' film — and Weber, after all, a world-class photographer.

Bit by bit, though, it becomes apparent that these fragments are elements in a collage, whose design becomes clearer as the film goes on. When the last piece (which is in fact one of these first puzzling images) finally falls into place, there is the intense satisfaction of filling the last hole in a jigsaw puzzle. We have our complete picture, which is a portrait in depth of the jazz trumpeter Chet Baker.

Baker was born in Oklahoma in 1929, taught himself trumpet (he never learned to read music) and at 24, after getting himself discharged from the army on psychological grounds, was playing with top jazz musicians such as Charlie Parker and Gerry Mulligan.

He was dazzlingly handsome, in the short-haired, baby-faced style of the Fifties. His looks and the deep dark eyes, expressing both hurt and burning sincerity, made him a natural romantic ideal for the James Dean era. Apart from his trumpet, he had a soft, seductive singing voice. He was featured in a few films; an awful sex-drugs-and-music melodrama, *All The Fine Young Cannibals*, was partly based on his life, and he had a brief acting career in Italian films.

In later life he was ravaged by drugs; and in the late Sixties his musical career was interrupted when he lost all his teeth in a brawl. He was eventually able to perform again; but died mysteriously in 1987, falling from the window of a hotel room in Amsterdam. My colleague Clive Davis, elsewhere on this page, traces the story from the jazz-writer's viewpoint.

Bruce Weber became fascinated — as most people who knew Baker were — during the last year of the musician's life. Baker's

unpredictable habits made shooting difficult; but Weber followed him doggedly, filming his last recorded sessions and constant interviews. Baker's face is ruinous, with sunken cheeks and deep furrows; and he moves and speaks as if in a trance, slowly and painfully groping for thoughts and words.

Somehow his musical gift has survived, more or less intact; and the deep eyes still protest sincerity — quite mendaciously, as we gradually discover. He tells, with feeling, the story of losing his teeth; moments later, one of his mistresses warns us that his version, like much else, is likely to be quite untrue.

We meet one of his three wives, several of his mistresses, and his mother. All remain reluctantly under the spell of his charm, even while they recall the desertions, infidelities, disloyalty, ruthless manipulation and even brutality. Weber has caught some extraordinary revelations: Baker's desperate effort to dredge up from his fogged mind some knowledge of his own children; the moment when his mistress discovers that the gift from Baker that she has most treasured — the film rights in his life — has been prodigally given to Weber as well. There is a more disquieting episode when Baker's widow begs Weber not to use her unguarded comment on a mistress: he has done so just the same.

Even as Weber's film strips bare the pitifully frail and destructive personality of this gifted man, the spectator's sympathy for him grows, against all probability. The fragmented but dramatic narrative of this skillfully structured documentary recalls Clint Eastwood's dramatized biography of Baker's one-time colleague Charlie Parker, *Bird*. There is an odd link: when Parker died at 35 the doctors guessed his age as 60; when Baker died at 58 the Dutch police described him, despite his ruined face, as "a man of 30, with a trumpet".



Someone to lean on: Chet Baker enjoying the support of his wife Liliane in Bruce Weber's *Let's Get Lost*

## Musical fantasy, an elegy and an exercise in brutality

As in *Let's Get Lost*, collage is also the method of Fernando Solanas's *Sur* (South) (15, Cannon Premiere), which won him the prize for best direction at the Cannes Festival. As a musical-fantasy essay on recent Argentinian history, it is a sequel to Solanas's earlier *Tango*. *Tango* dealt with Argentinians in exile in France in the Seventies; *Sur* is about the return from prison of a victim of the military dictatorship.

Again the musical basis is a melancholy, evocative Argentine tango, sung breathily but confidently by the veteran Roberto Goyenoch. The style is all theatrical artifice, with most scenes set in night streets, photographed in predominate blue, with drifting smoke, and papers — symbolizing perhaps the printed detritus of the election that preceded the fall of the Generals — that swirl about the feet of the actors.

The hero has emerged from

prison, but hesitates to return to the wife who was unfaithful during his absence. As he wanders the night town, he meets people from his past, both the living and the ghosts. A lot of the dialogue and memories in this overlong, two-hour film are likely to be elusive for British audiences, but the songs and choreography are intriguing to watch. There are some fine and often comic fantasy set-pieces, such as the library where, like a library, civil servants read off the titles of books and films while a chorus responds with the grounds ("Marxist", "pornographic", "subversive") on which the words of Freud, St Exupéry and Solinas himself are to be forbidden.

The actor-playwright Sam Sheppard wrote *Paris, Texas* for Wim Wenders, and the play *Pool for Love* which Robert Altman filmed. But for his own directorial debut, *Far North* (12, Cannon, Tottenham Court Road), his

script is an odd, whimsical and quite unconvincing piece of Americana. Charles Durning (over-playing, unusually) is a Minnesota veteran of two wars, who is hospitalized by a runaway horse, and irrationally vows vengeance on the poor animal.

His demand that his favourite, town-dweller daughter should shoot the horse, a family pet, causes crisis in his all-female household, consisting of his spaced-out wife, country-bred daughter, trollop grand-daughter and crotchety mother-in-law who unwillingly celebrates her 100th birthday while Durning decides the fate of the horse. The dialogue, as might be expected, is bright; there are some ambitious devices; but the characters go no deeper than a series comedy.

*Lock Up* (18, Cannon Haymarket, Oxford Street, Chelsea) is an almost abstract exercise in sadism — abstract in the sense that the story that justifies the

non-stop brutality is almost nonexistent. Sylvester Stallone is (as usual) serving time despite his unquestionable innocence. He is snatched from his prison cell, with its Paul Klee posters on the wall, to be taken off to a nightmare establishment whose warden (Donald Sutherland) sets out to work off an old grudge, with every physical brutality the dull minds of the writers can think up. The director of this orgy of beating, kicking, electrocution, drowning and insult was John Flynn.

Next week the National Film Theatre begins a season of the rediscovered films from the last years of Imperial Russia, which I wrote about on their first appearance at the Portenone Film Festival last year. It is a rare chance to see films that have been hidden for more than 70 years.

Russian cinema audiences, unlike those in English-speaking countries at the time, tended to be drawn from the literate bourgeois

and the films reflect the tastes of an audience in the throes of enthusiasm for Symbolist literature and Art Nouveau. They thrilled to tales of mystery and occult, of necrophilia and beautiful *femmes fatales*.

The film-makers shunned the rapid American style of montage, and relied rather on sophisticated acting and highly developed techniques of lighting and arrangement within the shot. The great actors of the years before the 1917 Revolution, such as Ivan Mosjoukine, Vera Karall and Vera Khodolnaya, are still mesmerizing.

And the season reveals one director of real genius, Evgenii Bauer, who would certainly have given a quite different direction to Soviet cinema if he had not died in 1917. Resurrected at last, Bauer's extraordinary visionary invention, dramatic skill and psychological perception add a significant new name and a new chapter to film history.

## No exclusive rights to drug addiction

Clive Davis, jazz critic of *The Times*, on the truly tragic story of trumpeter Chet Baker

Chet Baker's place in the jazz pantheon would have been secured long ago if he had had the sense to follow Bix Beiderbecke's example, and die before he was 30. As it is, he lived another three decades, long enough to see his legend assailed by heroin and the changing winds of fashion.

After all his restless wanderings around Europe and America, his reputation rests mainly on a handful of recordings from the early Fifties. "His experience," the American critic Nat Hentoff once noted, "is that of the young novelist who writes one or two books that last, and spends the rest of his career wondering why it never happened again."

Hentoff was writing in 1973. By that time, Baker had edged back towards regular touring, his drug problem momentarily kept at bay with methadone. At the time of his death, he was still playing music of extraordinary beauty. On his last visits to Ronnie Scott's, the sight of him perched on a stool, forcing all his strength on a ballad, was almost unbearably poignant. When he was on form, the sound that emerged transcended all his physical frailties.

Once the epitome of wide-eyed, mid-Western youth, Chet Baker first attracted attention in 1952, at the age of 22, when he joined Charlie Parker's band during one of the latter's visits to Los Angeles. The real turning point, however, came when he linked up with the baritone saxophonist Gerry Mulligan, on a series of dates at a bar called The Haig.

Like so many jazz milestones, the birth of the famous Baker-Mulligan quartet arose in part from pure chance. The Haig's owner had put the venue's piano in storage while playing host to the trio of the vibraphone player Bud Neruo. With no piano to act the focal centre, Mulligan was free to develop a contrapuntal style for saxophone, trumpet and bass. Baker, a technically limited performer who played by ear, immediately rose to the challenge.

The group's spare and buoyant sound helped define what has become known as "West Coast Jazz", a reaction against the frenetic tempo of New York-based bebop. A haunting trumpet-led version of "My Funny Valentine" brought huge commercial success, and within a matter of months Baker was tempted to embark on a solo career, making use of his dubious singing voice. His early albums were by no means as empty as some detractors suggest, but they seldom re-kindled the chemistry of the Mulligan quartet.

By the end of the Fifties he had begun the long decline into drug addiction, marked by a depressing cycle of arrests and flurries of inspiration in the studio. After a severe beating by drug dealers ruined his embouchure, he was forced to stop playing altogether for nearly three years, scraping a living by working at a petrol station.

His commercial appeal always made him suspect in some jazz

quarters. The fact that he was originally inspired by the spacious trumpet phrasing of Miles Davis was also held against him.

Like Dave Brubeck, another West Coast star, Baker was accused of riding to fame on the back of black musicians. In the Fifties, when black artists were systematically ignored by the mainstream media, the charge carried some weight. The passing of the years brings some perspective: Baker's success was more than just a question of good looks and good luck.

The backlash against the whole West Coast school — dismissing it as a pseudo-classical dilution of true jazz — did nothing for his reputation either. Some of the music which came out of Los Angeles and San Francisco undoubtedly sounds effete and pretentious today. At its best, however, the approach did open new avenues, finding original ways to fuse improvisation and composition.

Bruce Weber's film has already aroused other matters. Is it just another study of the jazz junkie, one to place alongside *Bird* and assorted Hollywood travesties? The simple but uncomfortable answer is that it is hard to make a film about the post-swing era without dwelling on the question of addiction (Charlotte Zwerin's documentary on Thelonious Monk, *Straight No Chaser*, is an exception).

In the Forties and Fifties, a generation of young musicians was



Near the end: Chet Baker in 1987

ravaged by drugs. Arduous working conditions, the "outsider" status of bebop and the creative demands on players all contributed to the phenomenon. Miles Davis's autobiography, due out next month, is a reminder of how many substances some musicians managed to consume. One of the reasons that the Mulligan-Baker quartet broke up, in fact, was that Mulligan was removed from the scene due to a 90-day sentence for possession of narcotics. Baker, sadly, was no lone misfit.

### VIDEO BOX

Geoff Brown

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

**DAD'S ARMY** (Parkfield, U): Largely successful cinema spin-off from the droll TV series, with lively performances from the Home Guard troop and adroit period atmosphere. 1971.

**THE DEADLY AFFAIR** (Parkfield, 15): John Le Carré's thriller *Call for the Dead*, expertly filmed against deliberately drab London backgrounds by director Sidney Lumet. James Mason is the Foreign Office chap who stumbles on a spy ring. 1967.

**DO THE RIGHT THING** (CIC, 16): Spike Lee's militant endorsement about racial tension in a boiling hot day in Brooklyn — a chain of sharp vignettes culminating in a full-scale street riot. With Danny Aiello as the Italian-American pizza parlour owner marooned in a black neighbourhood, and Lee himself as his black delivery boy. 1989.

**NOSFERATU** (CBS/Fox, 15): The shadow of Murnau's silent

classic hangs heavy over Werner Herzog's treatment of the Dracula story. Frequently misjudged, but the striking moments ultimately win, and Klaus Kinski makes a memorably cadaverous blood-sucker. 1979.

**FELINI'S CASANOVA** (CBS/Fox, 18): Opulent but morose treatment of the libertine's life and loves (a mechanical doll among them), with Donald Sutherland. Not one of Fellini's more persuasive extravaganzas. 1976.

**THE GREEN MAN** (Warner, U): Delightful farcical thriller from the Laurel-Gilliat team, with George Cole as a vacuum-cleaner salesman who accidentally thwarts Alastair Sim's assassination plans. 1959.

**KAGEMUSHA** (CBS/Fox, PG): Kurosawa's majestic epic from 1980, centred on the fate of a thief groomed as the double of a 16th-century warlord. Overwhelming in the cinema, though it inevitably shrivels on video.

**RAN** (CBS/Fox, 15): *King Lear* seen through Kurosawa's visionary eyes, with Tatsuya Nakadai as an old, fraught king in a cack, crumbling universe. Grandiose drama with battles, apocalyptic sights, and excellent music by Toru Takemitsu. 1988.

## How to project your reel self

Geoff Brown advises aspiring film-makers and anyone who is interested in cinema to visit Expo 90, a festival of student films opening in London tomorrow

It is simple enough to learn your trade as a novelist or playwright: you live, you suck the end of your pencil, and you write. The difficulty comes in surviving financially. But what if the goal is to create feature films? This involves lights, cameras, sound equipment, an editing bench, laboratory costs. Unless one intends going the avant-garde route — making studies in the contemplation of one's navel — it also requires co-workers: actors, technicians, clapper boys, and all the other flora and fauna listed in a film's screen of credits.

One way to take the plunge would be to attend BP Expo 90, an eight-day festival sponsored by British Petroleum, beginning tomorrow in London at the Riverside Studios, Hammersmith (box office, 01-748 3354). For the second year running, the event gathers together the cream of international student films and video. There are trade stands, seminars on all aspects of the industry, and visits from assorted luminaries. Some brave souls will be bringing work from their own film school days, including Istvan Szabo from Hungary, Canada's Atom Egoyan, and Shaji Karun, the Indian director of *Piravi*.

The youngest directors dipping into their past are a talented Scottish duo from the National Film and Television School: Ian Sellar, who directed last year's fetching *Venus Peter*, and Gillies MacKinnon, whose brilliant first feature, *Conquest of the North Pole*, awaits commercial release. Both their graduation films deal with deaths in the family: student film-makers like to demonstrate they are serious. Sellar's *Albert's Memorial*, made in 1985, is a neatly mounted tale of a working-class widow coming to terms with herself and her late Albert; though it is MacKinnon's 1986 film *Passing Glory* — a pungent drama about the death of a feisty Communist grandmother — that impresses most with its confidence and passion.

With hindsight, however, student films can only give a mixed indication of achievements to come. Szabo's 1961 short *Concert* — in which three lads carry a piano around town — intimates a vein of lyrical surrealism hardly present in *Mephisto* and the like. On the other hand, Polanski's *Two Men and a Wardrobe* (1958) — two men carrying a wardrobe around town — flung down his credentials as a hard-edged absurdist. There are also early films whose brilliant promise led nowhere: where are the successors to Philip Trévelyan's haunting study of rural eccentricity, *The Moon and the Sledgehammer*, one of the most original British films of the early 1970s?

Exploring first films, it is best to tread carefully. There are skeletons in closets. No-one, for instance, would wish to judge Francis Coppola by *Tonight for Sure*, or *The Playgirls* and *The Bellboy*, or other pornography cheerfully undertaken while a student at the University of South Carolina. Fans of Ridley Scott's sleek designer *anger* might become impatient with *Boy and Bicycle*, a half-hour short made in 1965 for the British Film Institute's Production Board, in which a roaming camera follows a boy, and his bike, as he plays truant in North Shields.

Yet whatever the achievement, directors' first efforts are always a

source of fascination. The best thing about student film-making is that all modes of expression seem open; it is only later that expediency or necessity begin shutting doors. In Martin Scorsese's student films, made at New York University in the mid 1960s, you can almost see the young director gobbling up film history, fighting through a forest of influences — from Fellini to the comedy routines of Mel Brooks — to forge his own personal style. On one level, *It's Not Just You, Murray!* — a 15-minute short presenting the life and thoughts of Murray, a smart, shady operator inordinately proud of his flashy tie and car, would seem to be a plain gagster lampoon. But the pulse of New York's mean streets is ever-present, paving the way for the celebrated films to come.

Individual talent can flicker into life no matter what the restrictions. An early Ken Russell short like *Amelia* and *the Angel* (1958) may well have a homegrown look: no dialogue, natural lighting, tracking shots taken with a hand-held camera perilously clutched from a car or wheelchair. Yet from modest resources Russell carved a curiously touching tale about a schoolgirl (played by the daughter of Uruguay's London ambassador) seeking after angel's wings to replace a damaged pair needed for a school production. Russell's innate romanticism and talent for choreographing action are on copious display; at the time, the editor of *Amateur Movie Maker* called the film "the nearest approach to a masterpiece that any amateur has yet made."

Who knows, then, what talent will be uncovered among the student films at Expo 90? No doubt there will be more deaths and funerals. There may be dour accounts of families on the braidline; slick genre pieces consciously designed as the director's *entrée* into TV drama; two or three people carrying, say, a lamp-post; or, with luck, there may be some precious, iconoclastic fireworks.

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# TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey

## A tale of doctors at war

Peter Waymark

It is what in popular parlance is called a tug-of-war case — estranged parents battling over their child — but with ramifications which take it into the realm of Hollywood melodrama. The parents are American, well-heeled and both doctors. Their marriage, which broke up after seven months, produced a daughter, Hilary. The mother, Elizabeth, alleges that the child was sexually abused by the father and, fearing that he would be granted a custody order, arranged for Hilary to go into hiding. Refusing to discuss Hilary's whereabouts to the press, Elizabeth spent two years in prison for contempt. Only an amendment to the law, passed to meet her case, got her released. Strikingly denying the allegations, the father, Eric, launched a hunt for Hilary which brought him to England, with a national newspaper paying for the tip in return for an exclusive. And there is even more than that, all crisscrossed in Hilary's *In Hiding*. Stephen Lambert's film for 40 Minutes (BBC2, 9.30pm). With both sides more than willing to tell their stories, a video in which the child tells her and an appearance from the paternal grandmother, most of the angles are covered. The accusations fly back and forth, with Eric describing his former wife as the most evil woman he has known and Elizabeth venting much of her anger on the judge (male) whom she accuses of refusing to believe that incest can happen in a middle-class family. As they try to decide where the truth lies, viewers may feel that such public washing of dirty linen would not have happened had the case been British.



Remembering it up: Nigel Plamer mounts an eventual rescue mission (BBC2, 9.00pm)

As someone who would happily trade the entire output of French, Saunders, Edmondson and company for two minutes of *Les Dawson*, I am commending The Comic Strip Presents... (BBC2, 9.00pm) in the knowledge that millions will disagree. And rather than go on about gifted people (also involved tonight are Nigel Plamer, Robbie Coltrane and Lenny Henry) squandering their comic talent in raucous horse-play, I will simply tell you the team's opening episode (continued next week) involves French and Saunders as ornithologists trapped on the Falkland Islands as Argentina's General Galtieri decides to re-invade. Enter Plamer as a radio ham who calls in Edmondson and friends to mount an eventual rescue mission.

### BBC 1

8.30 Breakfast News and Commonwealth Games. Steve Rider with highlights of the overnight action, and David Icke with Games summaries at 8.35, 7.30, 6.30, 5.30. Plus regular news headlines, business and financial reports, regional news, weather and travel information.

9.30 Killy. Robert Killy-Silk is in the chair for another discussion on a topical subject.

10.00 News and weather followed by Going for Gold (1).

10.30 Children's BBC, presented by Simon Parkin, begins with Playdays (1) 10.30 Readers (1) 10.50 Five to Eleven. Nerys Hughes with a reading.

11.00 News and weather followed by Commonwealth Games. Helen Rollason and Ralph Delor with coverage of the Games in Auckland. Includes News and weather at 12.00, 12.55 Regional news and weather.

1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Houghton.

1.30 Neighbours. It's Mrs Mangel's big day but, before she can walk down the aisle, Marge has an embarrassing problem to solve.

2.15 Film: Ishtar's Choice (1981) starring Jean Stapleton, Richard Kiley and Peter Coyne. The long-suffering loyal secretary to a top corporate executive, who is forced to choose between accepting his marriage proposal when he returns and gaining security or realizing her career dreams under the dynamic young president who takes his place.

3.00 Charlie Chalk in *Jumping Bananas* (1) 4.05 Bananas (1) 4.15 Bananas. Lynda Bellingham with part four of Judy Corbille's *Chalk* and the Ice-Pick. 4.25 New York Show 4.35 *Alfonso* Banas starring Alex Jennings.

5.00 Newsnight 5.55 Film: Peter. Yvette Fielding and John Leslie are joined by special guest Magnus Magnusson for the Blue Peter Mastomind of the Decade competition. Plus Bonnie celebrates her fourth birthday. (Coast)

6.30 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather.

6.50 Newsroom South East presented by Guy Michelson.

7.00 Newsroom Today. Desmond Lynam presents highlights of today's events in Auckland, including men's and women's athletics finals, boxing, badminton, bowls, cycling, gymnastics, judo and shooting.

8.00 *EastEnders*. Danny receives an ultimatum and must make the choice between his wife and children or Michelle. (Coast)

8.30 May to December. Ales and Zoe brave the storm when they prepare to tell their respective families that they intend to move in together. Starring Anton Rodgers and Eve Matheson. (Coast)

9.00 One O'Clock News with Michael Smith. Regional news and weather.

9.30 One Foot in the Grave. Margaret's enthusiasm for Victor's new-found interest in nude painting doesn't last long after he gives her the model a lift home and she offers him a part-time job. Starring Richard Wilson and Annette Crockett.

10.00 Question Time. Joining Peter Sissons around the table tonight are Robin Cook, MP, Shadow Minister for Health; Pauline Perry, director of South Bank Polytechnic; Baroness Trumpington, Agriculture Minister; and writer and journalist Anthony Sampson.

11.00 European Figure Skating Championships. British champion Emma Murdoch from Southill and 17-year-old Andrea Law from Blackpool are among the skaters in the ladies' free programme from Leningrad. Followed by Women's.

12.00 Commonwealth Games. Steve Rider introduces tonight's coverage of the Games in Auckland, with seven games to be won in athletics. The competitors are David Coleman, Ron Pickering and Brendan Foster. Plus bowls, badminton, judo and shooting.

### BBC 2

8.00 TV-am begins with News and Good Morning Britain presented by Richard Keys and, from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. With news at 8.05, 7.00, 6.30, 5.30, 4.30. Plus regular news headlines, business and financial reports, regional news, weather and travel information.

8.30 Lucky Ladders. Word association game hosted by Lennie Bennett 8.55 Thames News and weather.

10.00 The Times... The Place... Live topical discussion programme.

10.40 This Morning. Magazine series presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Today's edition includes Charlotte Plimmer with advice on home security for the elderly, Dr Chris Jones on how to stay healthy, and there is a feature on crystals, the current craze in the United States, said to help both physical and spiritual well-being. National and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather.

12.10 The Riddlers 12.30 Home and Away. Frank and Bobby have a serious disagreement which leads to an ultimatum.

1.00 News at One with John Suchet. Weather 1.30 Thames News and weather.

1.30 What You Were Here...? Another chance to see Monday's programme, featuring Cyprus, the Sicily Isles and environmentally-friendly holidays. (Coast) 1.45 A Country Practice. Drama set in and around the health centre of a rural Australian community. Wanda Valley.

3.00 Win, Lose or Draw. Game show hosted by Danny Heffer. 3.30 Thames News and weather.

3.50 Some and Daughters. Australian drama focusing on the troubled lives of the Hamilton and Palmer families.

4.00 Hot Dog with Marcus Clarke. 4.15 Dogmatism and the Times. Muckamuk (1).

4.40 Press Gang. Sarah's story about a sister who's been off for ages off memories and nightmares for Lynda. Meanwhile, Colin and Splice are battling for Ruby's affections. (Coast)

5.10 Blockbusters. Quiz game for school-leavers.

5.40 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 6.00 Home and Away (1).

6.30 Thames News and weather.

6.50 Thames Help. Jackie Sprackley with news of Hormone Replacement Therapy to help women through the menopause.

7.00 *EastEnders*. Joe and Kate are off on their much-needed second honeymoon.

7.30 *Survive* Michael Norman. Britain's polecats.

8.00 The BBC Michael Norman. The Family Now. Michael Norman may run a business which is totally above board, but he has a few less-than-legal sidelines which San Hill's Di Burnside is keen to stamp out. (Coast)

8.30 This Week. The Man Who Ruined Families. What's the story? Is the Queen's new husband one of Britain's biggest defence companies?

9.00 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. The Resident Patient. Starring Jeremy Brett. One of Doctor Watson's patients lives in fear of his life. Trevelyan calls in Holmes to help solve the mystery (1).

10.00 News at Ten with Sandy Gall and Jeremy. 10.30 Thames News and weather.

10.30 The City Programme. Examines the Sky VBS battle and includes an interview with the Sky chief Rupert Murdoch.

11.00 01- for Leanne. A critical guide to the capital's entertainment scene. Followed by *Championships*.

11.30 European Figure Skating Championships. Coverage of the ladies' compulsory final in Leningrad. Followed by News headlines.

12.00 *Prisoner*. Call Block H. Drama serial set in an Australian women's prison.

1.30 *Championships* of Wrestling.

2.15 News headlines followed by Film: *Matinee* (1939) by starring Ann Blythe, Robert Young and Ruth Hussey. The story of a brassy showgirl with a heart of gold. Directed by Edwin.

3.40 Profiles of Hall and Oates. 4.00 News headlines followed by Three's Company. Comedy series.

4.30 *American's Top Ten*.

4.40 *ITV* Movie: *Walt with Chrimble* King. Ends at 5.00.

### BBC 2

8.15 Westminster 8.30 *Coast*. 8.30 Daytime on Two: History of the Black Country 8.40 An abridged 8.50 Business and economics. 9.00 Science channel 10.40 Spinning a globe 11.00 Tropical rain forests 11.30 Science in sport 11.40 Tutorial topics 12.03 Serving in the WRACS and an RAF technician 12.30 Drugs abuse 12.50 Science fiction 1.20 Filmhouse 1.40 Music for saxophones.

2.00 News and weather followed by an introduction to brass instruments.

2.15 Antiques Roadshow (1). (Coast)

2.30 News and weather followed by Westminster 1.40. Includes Prime Minister's Question Time 2.40.

News, regional news and weather 4.00 *Coast*. With host Paul Cole.

4.30 Behind the Headlines with Paul Cole and Jeffrey Archer. A discussion on the future of nuclear power.

5.00 Down Rags. Down on the Ganges by Benares (1).

5.10 *Horror* in the Earth to Mankind (1). (Coast)

6.00 Film: *Found Money* (1983) starring Dick Van Dyke and Sid Caesar. A made-for-television comedy about a man who decides to retire from his executive position in a New York bank. He decides to exact revenge by using his computer skills to obtain money from the bank and give it to the local needy. Directed by Bill Persky.

7.30 *WideWorld*. The Last Restaurant. The whole-hungry Eskimo community of Kivik, Alaska.

8.30 *News* in the Midday 8.35. An investigation by Rossland Coward into the politics of nature.

9.00 The Comic Strip Presents... South Africa's Rastafarian (see Choice).

9.30 40 Minutes. *Life's in a Hiding*. (Coast) (see Choice).

10.10 Screenplay First: *Fordlady*, by Sonia Wortmann. An unsuccessful photo-journalist with an eight-year-old daughter who spots a plan which will revive his flagging fortunes.

10.30 *Newsnight*.

11.15 The *Left* Show includes a history of the robot 11.55 *Weather*.

12.00 Behind the Headlines. See 4.30.

12.30 *Weekend Outlook*. A preview of Open University programmes. Ends at 12.40.

### CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily 9.25 Schools 12.00 The Parliament Programme. Presented by Sue Cameron 12.30 Business Day. Financial and business news service presented by Susannah Simons.

1.00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series. The guest is singer Billy Joel.

2.00 European Figure Skating Championships from Leningrad, introduced by Nick Owen.

3.00 Equinox: New World New World. Profiles of people who work in New York's service industries (1).

4.00 Not on Sunday presented by Brian Reddy.

4.30 Countdown. Richard Whitley hosts the words and numbers game.

5.00 Treasure Hunt in Hampshire (1). (Coast)

6.00 *Coast*. *Coast* introduces the latest dance crazes — tea dances and lindy-hopping.

6.30 Kate and Alma. Comedy series starring Susan Saint James and Jane Carr (1).

7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zehab Badawi.

7.30 *Comment* followed by *Weather*.

8.00 *Partners* to the People. Bob Dylan-obsessed student who is constantly fighting to be accepted by the medical authorities. The film examines his clinic in India.

8.30 *Brass*. Austin is assured of victory in the local by-election until Charlotte finds an alternative Labour candidate (1).

9.00 Traffic. Episode five of the award-winning car-racing series (1). (Coast)

10.00 True Stories: *Honey — Quacks*. Who Cares? Tonight's documentary investigates the politics of healing. Many believe that Harry Houdini, an alternative doctor, has a cure for cancer but he is constantly fighting to be accepted by the medical authorities. The film examines his clinic in India.

11.40 *Sumo*. Japanese wrestling series.

12.10 *Film: The Stain* (1985). An award-winning Soviet-made drama about a drug-taking, catfishing, 12-year-old boy who, as a joke, bets one million dollars at the toss of a coin. He loses and finds himself in debt to the local Georgian underworld. Directed by Aleks Tsabadze. Ends at 1.45.

### SATELLITE

SKY ONE 5.00am International Business Report 5.30 European Business Channel 6.00 DJ Kat 6.30 Panel Post Punt 10.00 The Sullivan 11.30 Sky by Day 11.30 A Problem Shared 12.00 Another World 12.30am General Hospital 1.50 As the World Turns 2.45 Loving 3.15 The Young Doctors 3.45 Captain Caveman 4.00 The Adventures of Gulliver 4.30 The New Leave It To Beaver 5.00 Sky Star Search 6.00 The New Price is Right 6.30 Sale of the Century 7.00 Beyond 2000 8.00 Moonlighting 9.00 Wiseguy 10.00 Jameson 11.00 Sky News 11.30 Voyager

SKY NEWS News on the hour. 5.00am International Business Report 5.30 European Business Channel 6.00 International Business Report 10.30 Frank Bough 11.30 International Business Report 1.30pm NBC Today 2.30 Parliament Live 3.15 PM's Question Time 3.30 Parliament Live 4.30 NBC Today 5.00 Live at Five 5.30 Beyond 2000 7.30 The Reporters 8.30 Frank Bough 9.30 Target 10.30 The Reporters 11.30 NBC Nightly News 12.30am Frank Bough 1.30 Target 2.30 The Reporters 3.30 Frank Bough 4.30 Target.

SKY MOVIES From 8.00am The Shopping Channel 8.30am *Die Hard* as the Police (1984). Air-accident movie, based on a real incident.

4.00 The Jacksons meet the Flintstones. The prehistoric family meets a crazy family on their way to the moon.

6.00 *Leave It To Heaven* (1987). Two lost souls search the Earth for each other.

7.40 Entertainment Tonight.

8.00 Monty Python Live at the Hollywood Bowl (1982). Classic Python sketches filmed on stage.

9.40 *Projector*. Forthcoming movies on Sky.

10.00 *Deadly Pursuit* (1985). Two cops (Sandra Bullock and Tom Berenger) trail a psychotic killer into the Canadian mountains.

11.45 *Angels from Hell* (1988). A gang of outlaw Vietnam vets run riot in California.

1.15am *The Jury* (1982). Arnold Aspinall assumes the Mike Hawthorne mantle.

4.00 *Escape to Victory* (1981). War-time escape movie in which POWs form a football team to disguise their breakout. Ends at 5.00am.

EUROSPORT 5.00am International Business Report 5.30 European Business Channel 6.00 DJ Kat 6.30 Menu 8.00 Trans World Sport 8.30 Football Results 8.50am World Championship of Motor Sport 4.00 Commonwealth Games 5.00 European Figure Skating Championships 7.00 Mobil Motor Sports News 8.00 Basketball 8.30 Ford Snow Report 10.00 Commonwealth Games 11.00 Football.

MTV 6.00am Kristine Backer 11.00 Remote Control 11.30 Club MTV 12.00 Kristine Backer 1.00pm Maroon Vanth 4.00 3 from 1 4.15 Maroon Vanth 4.30 Coca-Cola Report 4.45 Maroon Vanth 5.00 Remote Control 5.30 Ray Cokes 7.30 Club MTV 8.00 The Big Picture 8.30 Highbangers Ball 10.00 Coca-Cola Report 11.15 Maroon Vanth 1.00am Video.

SCREENSPORT 7.00am Powersports 8.00 Athletics 9.30 Sport in Focus 10.00 Spanish Soccer 11.45 Ice Speedway 12.45pm Soccer 1.15 Ice Hockey 4.15 Spanish Soccer 8.00 1989 Indoor Superstars 7.30 Update: Argentinean Football 8.15 Pro Bowlers 11.30 Spanish Soccer 12.15am Spain Sport 12.30 US Pro Ski Tour.

LIFESTYLE 10.00am John's Fitness Minute 10.01 Search for Tomorrow 10.30 Slim Cooking 10.35 Spain Spain Holiday 11.00 Coffee Break 11.10 Edge of Night 11.30 Great American Gameshow 12.50pm Style File 1.15 Sally Jessy Raphael 1.50 The Rich Also Cry 2.40 Search for Tomorrow 3.03 The Book 3.10 Cinema 4.45 Great American Gameshow.

Full information on satellite TV programmes is available in the weekly magazine, TV Guide.

### RADIO 1

Phil Siano and NW News on the hour. 6.00am and 6.30am, then at 7.30, 8.30 and 9.30. 10.00am News 10.30am News 10.50am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 11.50am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 12.50am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 1.50am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 2.50am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 3.50am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 4.50am News 5.00am News 5.30am News 5.50am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 6.50am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 7.50am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 8.50am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 9.50am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 10.50am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 11.50am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 12.50am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 1.50am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 2.50am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 3.50am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 4.50am News 5.00am News 5.30am News 5.50am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 6.50am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 7.50am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 8.50am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 9.50am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 10.50am 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TEMPUS

# WH Smith's wounds only superficial

WH Smith's interim results do not make the best selling lists. They show the burden of higher interest rates — relief from which is some way off yet — and a 16 per cent fall in pre-tax profit from £41.8 million to £35.1 million.

It is Smith's first downturn for some time, and immediate market reaction yesterday was to knock the shares down from 321p to 300p. They later recovered to 317p.

But bear in mind that latest interim results cover 26 weeks to December 2 against 27 weeks, and the conclusion must be that the company, chaired by Sir Simon Hornby, has performed surprisingly well within its core business. Also, there were no property profits (£2.4 million previously) to flatter.

At the trading level, profits from continuing businesses rose 18.9 per cent (on a like-for-like basis) or by 13 per cent to £47 million as advertised.

News, books, and stationery were strong, although a slowdown in DIY checked Do It All operations, and a higher investment spend on television interests saw trading losses from TV services rise from £1.8 million to £3.2 million. The run in the interest charge from £6.5 million to £11.8 million for the half-year — against a charge of £11 million for all of the previous 12 months — reflects high borrowings and the level of

rates. Interest cover at 4.5 times should rise above 5 times come the year-end.

After a period of chopping and changing, Smith now looks set to consolidate and build on its trading blocks. New store design has worked, a certain percentage of distribution business has recently been won again from News International, television interests in time will bring their rewards, Christmas trading was good and a property revaluation is due at the year-end.

If the worst of the High Street winds continue to pass WH Smith by, then year-end pre-tax profits of £90 million (£84.1 million) should be within reach. So if Smith can convince the market that it will not be stepping on any banana skins, then the shares on a prospective p/e of 10.7 stand every chance of being re-rated.

## Allied Textile

Allied Textile Companies is a most unusual animal. Not only has it survived a period of great turmoil in the textile industry, it has prospered while stocks in more glamorous sectors such as electronics have been floundering. Remarkably, it sustained annual increases of 15 per cent in both earnings per share and dividends throughout the Eighties.



Sir Simon Hornby, WH Smith chairman: £11.8m interest bill

A key feature underlying its success was the realization that there was no shame in withdrawing from unproductive activities and reinvesting the proceeds in gifts.

At the end of last year the value of its cash, quoted securities and investment properties amounted to £42 million — not far short of half its market capitalization.

Allied does not believe in overpaying for acquisitions, either. It launched a £21.3 million offer for the carpet-maker Hugh Mackay towards the end of 1988, but withdrew when it became clear that Mackay's profits were not going to meet market expectations. Last month it made a renewed — and agreed — bid at a third of the price.

Acquisitions have been crucial in repositioning Allied away from the more competitive areas of the traditional

Huddersfield worsted trade. The purchase of Mayfield in 1985 took it into synthetic textiles and Bulmer & Lumb, bought in 1987, broadened it into topmaking. Including Mackay, these "new" businesses will account for nearly two thirds of Allied's sales.

The industry-wide slowdown left profits only 12 per cent ahead at £13.5 million and earnings just 8 per cent higher at 34p last year. With Mackay on board, Allied will do well to meet analysts' forecasts of £14 million and 35p this time, for a p/e ratio of 10 at 364p. There may be a dull spell ahead, but the shares are excellent value on a long-term view.

## Cray Electronics

The new management team at Cray Electronics has lots of hard pounding to do before the shares can be assessed on normal investment criteria. At 61p, they offer hope value alone for a loss-making company that will struggle to emerge with perhaps 3p of earnings by the end of next financial year.

But the trio now at the helm have a spectacular record of success at UEI, bought by Carlton Communications last year. They can probably make a go of turning Cray round and encouraging its core businesses to blossom. But first,

their attentions will be devoted to surgery.

Cray shattered shareholders late last year with revelations that previous profits were less than £5 million rather than the £17 million reported. Shortly after, the former UEI team replaced the old guard.

Yesterday's interim profits cover a period before these changes and are therefore largely academic — except for the exceptional and extraordinary charges made to clean up the business.

Profits of £1.2 million on £52 million of sales were swamped by £1.83 million of exceptional and £3.6 million below the line for closure of a loss-making Swiss joint venture. A £2 million post-tax loss thus became a £5.6 million hole in the balance sheet.

Its defence businesses are being groomed for sale and might raise £15 million, but not much before the end of 1990. That leaves sound businesses in communications, instrumentation and software systems. Their £100 million of sales might generate £8 million of pre-interest profit, but much of this will initially go to Cray's bankers.

The balance sheet, currently gristly with £40 million of debt against £26 million of net assets, will take time to repair. Expect losses of around £5.5 million this year and profits of perhaps £3 million next. The shares are high enough.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Platinum seeks buys after reducing loans

Platinum, the stationary, furniture and housewares group, is on the lookout for acquisitions. It has managed to cut borrowings from £4 million at March 31, 1989, to £3.3 million at September 30 — and to £2.1 million today. The group, now under new management, says that it is taking legal action in relation to its May, 1989, profit forecast, "founded on information subsequently proven to be materially incorrect."

The new team reports a pre-tax profit of £209,000 for the six months to September 30 on turnover of £11.2 million. However, it says: "Any comparison with the unaudited figures for the six months to July 31, 1988, should be treated with extreme caution, as these bore little relation to the audited figures for the 14 months to March 31, 1989." For purposes of legal comparison, Platinum shows a pre-tax loss of £129,000 for the six months to July 31, 1988.

### Expansion for Verson

Verson International, the West Midlands metal-forming machinery maker, has acquired Metform Engineering for £1.7 million. Verson received 4.25 million new ordinary shares of which 750,000 are retained; 3.5 million will be placed at 37p per share. Mr Tim Kelleher, Verson chairman and managing director, owns 38 per cent of capital.

### Micrelec call funds buy

Micrelec Group, maker of petrol station equipment, is buying CGP Automation and Gwendolyn Holdings for £1.77 million, via a 1-for-4 rights issue of 2.55 million new ordinary shares at 130p a share. The balance of the £3.13 million issue, underwritten by County NatWest Wood Mackenzie, will be used for working capital. The USM shares fall 3p to 158p.

### SM&E slides into red

Sanderson Murray & Elder (Holdings), the textile group subject to a £3.3 million takeover bid from Mr Tony Bramall, its 45 per cent shareholder, made a £149,000 loss (£26,000 profit) in the six months to December. Sales fell to £2.19 million (£2.64 million) and the loss per share is 7.9p (1.4p earnings). There is no interim dividend.

The company said its activities had worsened in the more difficult trading conditions since July last year. The offer document, bidding 175p a share in cash, was posted to shareholders yesterday. The shares fell 2p to 203p.

### Courtyard's £10,000

Courtyard Leisure, the City wine bar operator which joined the Third Market in December, reports pre-tax profits of £10,000 in the six months to end-September, on turnover of £495,000. Earnings per share are 0.16p. There is no interim dividend. Pre-tax profits were £94,000 in the year to end-March 1989 on turnover of £829,000.

### CMA leaps 29% to £1.6m

Central Motor Auctions lifted pre-tax profits 29 per cent to £1.62 million in the year to end-October, helped by auction proceeds up 42 per cent at £259 million and higher interest receipts of £450,000 (£259,000). Earnings per share rose 13p to 18.25p and the final dividend is 2.25p (2p), making 3.25p (2.75p) for the year. Its USM shares eased 3p to 113p.

### Mercury joins Ermes

Mercury Paging, the joint Mercury Communications and Motorola venture, is to join the pan-European radiopaging network Ermes — the European Radio Messaging System, set to launch in 1992. It will cover the whole of Europe, parts of Scandinavia, through into Turkey.

The company, which now has 40,000 subscribers since its launch two years ago, has been conspicuously absent from the push to expand European paging networks. Mercury Paging is not part of Euromessage, the network which will allow limited Continental paging between Britain, France and Germany.

### Dangers of banks on the cheap

Setting up a bank can cost as little as £4,460, a Family Money investigation has revealed. And clients can end up heavily out of pocket when high interest rates for savers fail to be paid or loans do not materialize after an arrangement fee has been handed over.

### THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

Details are included in seven pages of Family Money on Saturday. A change of approach is advised for investment trusts; three families tell how they built their own homes with help from building societies; and the bonuses being offered to members of three societies are explained.

### THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141  
The Times Stockwatch service gives our readers instant access to the prices of more than 13,000 shares, unit trusts and bonds. The information can be found by dialling the following telephone numbers:  
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● Telephone calls are charged at a rate of 38p per minute in peak times and at 25p per minute at standard times. All charges are inclusive of Value Added Tax.

### RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES		MIDCOURTAGE	
Abstract Thai (100p)	67	Middlegate Gp (75p)	70 +2
Analysts Higgs	24 +1	Oxford Virology	64
Anglo Park	78 +2	Pietras Mining	10 -1
Anglo Scan Int Ltd	2,693	Polysource	11 1/2
Biochem (42p)	37 -1	Prospect (10p)	11 1/2
Cable Int	220	Stag (130p)	188
Charnwell	224	Storm Group (25p)	15 1/2
Chelmer Radio (210p)	258	Surrey Gp	15 1/2
Citybond	215	Sturton View	108 +2
Courtyard Lats (27p)	214	See main listing for Water shares	
East Surrey Water	114		
Eurofoney	125		
Fastforward	381		
First Philo (50p)	125		
Garmore Energy Pacific	40		
Garmore Dev (100p)	125		
Image Store (38p)	42		
Lon & New York (100p)	100		
Malayan Engrg	690		

### ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000	
ADT	428	CU	688	LEO	2,171	Port & H	2,189
Abbey Nat	684	Coolson	858	Lloyds	1,552	Seas	17,488
AGL-Lyons	789	Courtauld	1,074	Lloyds Abb	1,023	Seagrid	2,381
Amstrad	844	Dalrymple	435	Lonro	1,023	Shel	5,178
ASDA	4,288	Deans	2,693	Lucas	798	Shire	2,281
AB Foods	378	ECC	4,237	Macwell Cm	4,237	Shire	2,281
Argyll	977	Enterprise	545	MB Group	680	Shire	2,281
BAA	517	Fisons	975	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
BET	2,384	FRU	1,088	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
BTP	2,091	Gen Int	763	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
BAT	1,862	GEC	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Berleys	1,040	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Bates	1,263	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
BCC	1,862	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Blue Arrow	112	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Blue Circle	1,841	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
BUC	1,084	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Boots	1,318	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
BPI	213	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Br Aero	514	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Br Airways	1,088	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Br Comms	494	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Br Gas	3,943	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Br Land	210	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Br Petrol	10,858	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Br Steel	2,328	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Br Telecom	18,592	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Bund	167	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Burns	884	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Burton	1,518	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
CAW	1,280	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Cedary	1,671	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281
Coats	1,107	Globe Int	2,287	Midland	1,283	Shire	2,281

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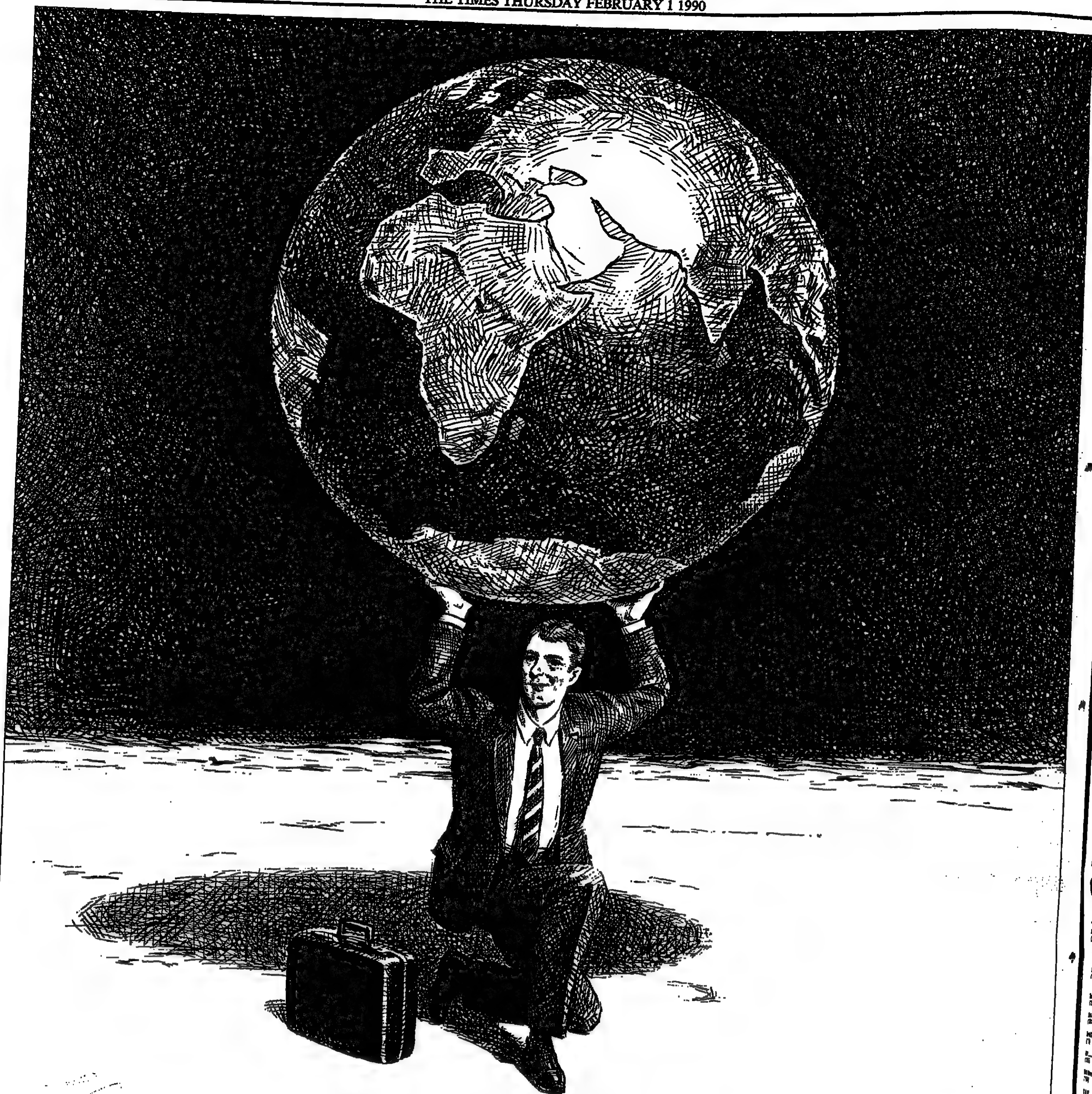
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## THE DOMINION COLLAPSE

# Downfall of a firm with many faces

Dominion International has had many claims to fame. Now the spotlight is firmly trained on its failure. Martin Waller charts its decline

A few years ago, Dominion was best known among investors for two things: its former chairman and leading light, Mr Max Lewinsohn, had the longest hair in the City, and the company used to offer cheap funerals to its shareholders.

In the City itself, however, Dominion has always had other claims to fame, among them the rapidity with which it changed its financial advisers and a whiff of doubt which has always hung over the firm. Mr Lewinsohn's high profile, however, attracted a raft of smaller shareholders drawn by the explosive earnings growth he was managing in the early years.

"Many people in the City felt he was too clever for them," one early investor recalls. "When I looked at the share register, it was all small shareholders who were tempted in because it was a go-go stock. There were no big institutions in there."

"The institutions couldn't make head or tail of the company — nor did they trust the quality of its earnings."

The somewhat morbid shareholders' perk ended in February, 1988, when the Dundee Crematorium, Mr Lewinsohn's base into which he moved in the mid-1970s, was sold to Great Southern, the funeral group, for £1.4 million. Many believe the real decline in Dominion's fortunes started around then.

Dominion has another claim to fame now: it is one of, so far, only a handful of quoted companies to have been pushed into collapse during the current downturn. The appointment of Price Waterhouse as administrator last month effectively put a cap on frantic attempts at a rescue by the new management

## Institutions couldn't make head or tail of the company's strategy — nor did they trust the quality of its earnings

The first move was to pay \$3 million, or £2.1 million, for 25 per cent of Inter, a Bermuda-based company set up in 1981 to create the world's first fully-automated financial futures exchange. It was the first of a number of diversifications that were to go horribly wrong.

In September, 1986, it paid \$27 million, or £18.2 million, for Transnational of the US, taking it into the risky area of computer leasing.

Summer of the next year was enlivened by a bid approach which came to nothing. Later that year it put up

for sale its 59 per cent of Southwest Resources, the mining group it floated in 1980, taking it out of that area altogether. At that time its biggest business was US oil and gas exploration and production.

It was around then that the company's public profile began to change. Never the stock for widows or orphans, Dominion was beginning to be seen as a little too exciting for its own good.

Mr Roy and Mr Don Richardson, the West Midlands property developers, and Lord Barnett, the former Labour Cabinet minister, entered the scene within a couple of months of each other, late in 1987, but it was the two-stage purchase early the next year of Film Finances which brought another pair of brothers to the group and led to the battles which resulted in Mr Lewinsohn's departure.

Mr Rupert Galliers-Pratt and Mr Nigel Cayer were well-known City figures, the latter having taken his mother's name. Mr Galliers-Pratt is chairman of Harvey & Thompson, the quoted pawnbroker, and Mr Cayer heads Allied Insurance Brokers.

Film Finances came to the group with its own problems. Its business was risky even by Dominion's standards, involving the provision of insurance against cost overruns. It arrived with a heavy exposure to what was to become one of the decade's worst flops, the fantasy *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*. According to Mr Galliers-Pratt, the film had been over budget within a week of entering production in September, 1987.

The year 1988 saw warnings from Dominion over the effects of falling oil prices, a weak dollar and low savings of personal finance plans. Laing



Spanish connection, Dominion Beach, one of the company's holiday developments

& Crickbank, its broker and financial adviser at the time, continued to be optimistic about the company, forecasting pre-tax profits of £10 million for the 1988-89 financial year. In the event, barely half that sum was achieved.

A ginger group put together by the two sets of brothers and other investors began to put pressure on Mr Lewinsohn towards the end of 1988. Mr Lewinsohn and Lord Barnett, then deputy chairman, swapped roles, and the peer was deputized to investigate the situation.

At the same time, Laing &

Crickbank, was dismissed in favour of Williams de Broe. In an abrupt volte face, Mr Lewinsohn last July announced plans to sell most of Film Finances and move into the US mortgage market. The final shoot-out came at the annual meeting a month later, resulting in his departure just before a vote on his removal.

Mr Lewinsohn is adamant that the two deals he had planned would have put the company back on its feet, a view not shared by the present management, led by Mr Carl Openshaw, the chairman.

The shares were suspended

in September, amid talks of a refinancing by way of a rights issue. Mr Openshaw admitted defeat in January, and Price Waterhouse was appointed administrator. At the time of the suspension, it was clear that substantial write-downs would have to be made against the value of the group's assets as carried in the balance sheet at the March 31 1989 year-end.

The administrators' job now is to work out the value of those assets, arrange for their sale and ensure that the right amounts of money return to the right lenders.



Max Lewinsohn: high profile attracted small shareholders

## Twists and turns on a downhill road

**Late 1970s** — Max Lewinsohn takes control of Dundee Crematorium, name changed to Dundonian.  
**December 1979** — buys housebuilder Alroy Development for £3.25 million.  
**May 1980** — plans to open three tin, tungsten and silver mines in Cornwall.  
**June 1980** — South West Consolidated Minerals floated off, 75 per cent retained.  
**August 1982** — change of name to Dominion and restructuring.  
**February 1983** — £8.2 million rights issue.  
**June 1984** — buys 25 per cent of Inter.  
**August 1984** — buys Anglo-International Investment Trust for £14 million, subsequently liquidated.  
**September 1986** — buys Transnational for £27 million.  
**July 1987** — bid approach "at close to 134p". Talks subsequently terminated.  
**October 1987** — puts up for sale its 59 per cent of Southwest Resources (the renamed South West Consolidated).  
**November 1987** — departure of four directors, all with long associations with Max Lewinsohn. Lord Barnett becomes deputy chairman.  
**January 1988** — The Richardsons acquire

5.6 per cent in post-crash dealings.

**February 1988** — Dundee Crematorium sold for £1.4 million to Great Southern Group, breeding Dominion's long links with funeral services.

**February 1988** — purchase of 24 per cent of Film Finances for £4.7 million as continuing switch from energy to financial services.

**April 1988** — purchase of rest of Film Finances, valuing entire group at £24.8 million and bringing on to Dominion board Rupert Galliers-Pratt and Nigel Cayer. Profits warning.

**August 1988** — reduces stake in Southwest Resources from 43 per cent to 31 per cent.  
**December 1988** — interim loss of £399,000 at Southwest.  
**December 1988** — Lewinsohn steps down as chairman in favour of Lord Barnett, becoming deputy chairman.  
**May 1989** — sale of Guardian Investment Holdings, Hong Kong-based property company, for £8.8 million to Southwest Resources. But flop of Southwest rights issue, underwritten by Dominion, pushes its stake back up to 45 per cent.

**July 1989** — plans to sell 60 per cent of Film Finances to its management for £25 million and buy York Associates, a New York mortgage company, for £25 million. Deal never completed. Pre-tax profits for full year £5.44 million, previous year's retained from £5.8 million to £4.87 million on adoption of "more conservative accounting policies".

**August 1989** — Lewinsohn quits as chairman ahead of shareholder action at annual meeting. Sets more than half his stake, it is later revealed.

**August 1989** — Lewinsohn quits as chairman of Southwest.  
**September 1989** — shares in Dominion suspended at 52p, valuing company at £26.5 million.  
**September 1989** — final dividend payment of 3p, already announced, halted after review showing financial position "substantially worse than thought".  
**November 1989** — Lord Barnett and John Clarke, the non-executive directors, quit.  
**January 1990** — Price Waterhouse called in an administrator. Assets shortfall estimated at £40 million.

## Finer points of group's assets profile

Dominion has two profitable and readily saleable assets, Transnational, the US computer peripherals leasing company, and the Film Finances business. Although the appearance of the latter on the 1988-89 balance sheet as a subsidiary held for sale at £25 million excited some surprise among City analysts, the company is the second biggest in its chosen field in the world.

The same cannot be said for some other parts of the group. Dominion has about 150 separate subsidiaries, but around 100 are based in Gibraltar and are merely used under Spanish law for the purchase of the company's flats on the Costa del Sol. Others are dormant. The chief assets outside Film Finance and Transnational are:

● A 7 per cent stake in USM-quoted Southwest Resources, worth just short of £1 million at its current price.

● Dominion Credit and Finance, a car leasing company where Bank of Boston is the main lender. Its borrowings of more than £30 million, secured against the loan portfolio, could eventually be satisfied by a sale. The administrators here are KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, put in by the bank, who are believed to be talking to several interested parties.

● Property in Texas which has already been the subject of write-offs of about £6.5 million.

● A stake of about 27 per cent in Inter, the financial futures exchange group, in the books at £6 million but unlikely to be

worth £1 million.

● Berwin La Roche, a mortgage and pension broker which is thought to be close to disposal.

● Dominion Financial Management, which provides computer and administrative services inside the group and to third parties. The company is profitable.

● Dominion Investment Management, not in administration, which writes personal equity plans, has continued to trade profitably and retained its Fimbra membership, and is the subject of an attempted management buyout.

● The financial services business, providing personal loans, part of Sarnia Mutual Supply, which also holds the Spanish development. The

loan book should have no difficulty finding a buyer.

● The Spanish properties, Dominion Beach, where the first phase is complete and largely sold and the second started, and Dominion Heights, not yet started. Building has stopped on site and some contractors are owed money. Guernsey-based Sarnia is in liquidation. It is hoped the Spanish site can be sold as a going concern.

The administrator, Price Waterhouse, is unable at this early stage to give any breakdown of the value of the assets. But sources claim that the company have suggested they are unlikely to total much more than £60 million, leaving a £40 million shortfall against outstanding borrowings.

## Queen's Bench Divisional Court

## Law Report February 1 1989

## Court of Appeal

### Cautious approach by justices urged

*Regina v Chichester Justices, Ex parte Chichester District Council*

Before Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice Roch

[Judgment January 30]  
It was unwise for justices to stop committal proceedings for a reason which turned upon the correct interpretation of a section in legislation such as town and country planning legislation, unless it was abundantly clear that the interpretation advanced on behalf of the defendant was correct, and that advanced on behalf of the prosecution was wrong.

If the point was arguable then it was a better course for the justices to commit the defendant for trial and to leave such matters of statutory interpretation to be resolved by the crown court judge with the assistance of full argument from counsel.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment when granting an application for judicial review to quash a decision of Chichester Justices, on November 30, 1988, not to commit Mr George Knight to the crown court for trial for allegedly failing to comply with enforcement notices issued by Chichester District Council concerning unauthorized development on land.

The Town and Country Planning Act 1971 provides by section 92(1)(b) that, after service of a copy of an enforcement notice, planning permission is granted for the retention on land of buildings... to which the enforcement notice relates, the enforcement notice shall cease to have effect in so far as it requires steps to be taken for the demolition or alteration of those buildings.

Mr Andrew Kelly for the council; Mr Clive Newton for the justices.

Prior to the appeal being heard, Mr Knight constructed a single-storey extension to that building. The council issued a second enforcement notice dated April 6, 1987 in respect of that extension, requiring demolition to ground level. Mr Knight appealed against that notice.

The appeals against both notices were heard together by an inspector appointed by the secretary of state and the result was that the inspector varied the enforcement notices to require in the case of the first notice, that the first floor should be demolished together with the external staircase and that a new flat roof should be provided.

With regard to the extension the requirements were that the external staircase should be removed and the building re-roofed. The variations were subject to submission of schemes to the local planning authority and various other requirements.

Mr Knight did not comply with the enforcement notices as amended but submitted two planning applications to the local planning authority.

The first was for a single-storey feed store and conversion of existing staircase to WC and offices and was entitled "Removal of first floor and conversion of external staircase". That planning application was granted by the council on February 16, 1988.

The second planning application was for the "Building" to be converted to a dwelling. That application was refused on March 7, 1988.

On February 3, 1988 Mr Knight had refused to confirm that the first planning application was to be taken as a submission of the schemes required by the inspector in the amended enforcement notices.

The applicants instituted criminal proceedings against Mr Knight on July 8, 1988 relying on the state of affairs on the land then. Mr Knight elected to go for trial and at the end of the local planning authority's evidence the justices dismissed the proceedings.

Two matters had to be observed in construing section 92(1) of the 1971 Act. First, the

definition of building included "any part of a building", (see section 29(2)).

Second, Parliament did not provide, where planning permission was granted for the retention on land of buildings to which an enforcement notice related after the service of the enforcement notice, that that enforcement notice should cease to have effect altogether.

Thus Parliament had intended that parts of buildings and not merely entire buildings should be affected by enforcement notices and by section 92(1).

What then was the effect of section 92(1)? Enforcement notices issued to have effect in so far as they required steps to be taken for the demolition or alteration of those buildings. What was meant by the phrase "those buildings", to which buildings did the phrase refer?

In his Lordship's judgment "those buildings" had to refer to the building for the retention of which planning permission had been granted subsequent to the service of the enforcement notice.

The justices should have looked at the buildings for which planning permission was granted on February 16, 1988.

*Ramblers Association v Kent County Council*  
Before Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Pill

[Judgment January 29]

The requirements imposed on justices by section 116(6) of the Highways Act 1980 when they were considering whether they should stop up a highway were mandatory. Therefore, the justices had no power to dispense with those requirements.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment when allowing an appeal by way of case stated by the Ramblers Association against a decision of the Folkestone Justices on March 10, 1989 to stop up certain parts of a highway over land belong-

ing to the Ministry of Defence on the ground that they were unnecessary within the meaning of section 116 of the 1980 Act.

Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 provides: "(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, if it appears to a magistrates' court... that a highway... (a) is unnecessary... the court may by order authorize it to be stopped up, or as the case may be, to be diverted."

The building constructed by Mr Knight had to be altered and parts of it removed so that it became the building permitted by the planning consent which had been granted by the enforcement notice.

His Lordship would order the case to go back to the justices with a direction that they continue the hearing of the committal proceedings applying the interpretation of section 92(1) of the 1971 Act which he had decided.

Lord Justice Neill concurred.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Mr P. R. Brown, Chichester; Charles Hill & Co, Chichester.

*Barclays Bank plc v Miller and Another; Frank, third party*

Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Staughton [Judgment January 18]

Although the court would not ordinarily accede to an application to dismiss an action for want of prosecution if the limitation period had not expired, where it was open to serious argument whether the claim would be time-barred, the court would dismiss the action, leaving the claimant to institute fresh proceedings if he chose to do so.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Thomas and Pamela Miller, from Mr Justice McKinnon who had affirmed the decision of Master Topley striking out for want of prosecution third-party proceedings brought by the defendants against Mr Colin Frank in respect of a guarantee by which Mr Frank was allegedly obliged to indemnify them against any liability they might have to the plaintiff bank.

Mr Stuart Isaacs for the defendants; Mr Michael Malone for the third party.

Justices should consider to whom the highway was unnecessary.

If it was for the benefit of the public, then the justices should consider themselves with that fact. They should ask themselves for what purpose the highway was unnecessary. It should be unnecessary for the purposes for which the public were using it, for example, in order to get to a certain place or for recreational purposes.

Where there was evidence that the way was currently in use, it would be *prima facie* difficult for justices to come to the view that the way was unnecessary unless the public was going to be provided with an alternative.

That alternative should be

*LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON*, having referred to the history of the matter, said that it was apparent from Mr Justice McKinnon's judgment that there was no issue before him but that the defendants had been guilty of inordinate and inexcusable delay and that there had been prejudice to the third party.

Thus the sole issue before the judge was whether the claim in the third-party proceedings was time-barred.

If it were not, then in the ordinary way there would be no point in dismissing it for want of prosecution because fresh proceedings could be started promptly: see *Birkett v James* [1978] AC 297.

The position would have been different if the claim were dismissed for contumacious conduct, or an abuse of the process of the court. In such a case it would by no means follow that a claimant could immediately start the proceedings again: see *The Supreme Court Practice* 1988 paragraph 25/17.

The dispute before the judge was whether the claim made by the defendants was solely a contractual claim or whether it also included a claim to contribution under the Civil

Liability (Contribution) Act 1978.

If it were a contractual claim, a legal executive then representing the defendants conceded that the cause of action had accrued in July 1981. The only alternative was that it was a claim under the 1978 Act, in which case the cause of action would have accrued in January 1988.

The judge rejected any claim under the 1978 Act in the third party notice, and held that there was only a contractual claim, which following the concession, was time-barred.

Mr Isaacs in the Court of Appeal, with leave, had withdrawn that concession. He had further submitted that there were four causes of action open to the defendants: namely, an implied indemnity by operation of law, an implied term of the agreement between the parties, the right of contribution in equity between co-guarantors, and a right to contribution under the 1978 Act.

All such causes of action were, in Mr Isaacs' submission, pleaded in the third-party notice.

If that were right the Court of Appeal would have to embark on a substantial inquiry into an application to dismiss for want of prosecution, not only as to what causes of action were available to the defendants, but also when the appropriate date for the accrual of the cause of action had been in each case, and whether each of those causes of action could be said to be comprehended in the third-party notice.

Referring to *Birkett v James*, his Lordship considered the speech of Lord Diplock (at pp320-321) where he had said that in the ordinary way there was no point in dismissing an action for want of prosecution if the limitation period had not expired.

The only result would be that the plaintiff could issue a fresh writ and far from hastening the final determination of the proceedings they would be yet further delayed because the plaintiff was starting anew. Lord Diplock said that that

would be the ordinary result. He also expressly exempted cases where an action was dismissed for contumacious conduct.

In his Lordship's view the House of Lords was not there considering a case where it was open to doubt and serious argument as to whether the cause of action was barred if a fresh writ were issued.

In such a case it might well be that the interests of justice were best served by dismissing the action for want of prosecution, leaving it to the plaintiff if he so chose, to start a fresh action.

The alternative was that masters, judges on appeal, and even the Court of Appeal, might become embroiled on such an application in long and elaborate arguments as to whether, in the particular case, it would be more conveniently considered in another way.

With regard to the present action, there were undoubtedly issues which might give rise to difficulty. The question whether section 1 of the 1978 Act applied to a claim for contribution between co-guarantors was one on which the textbooks appeared to take different views.

The effect of section 7 of the Act might also give rise to difficulty. Those were quite apart from the question whether the cause of action was included in the third-party notice.

Accordingly, his Lordship considered that justice would be better served by dismissing the action for want of prosecution. His Lordship proposed that the appeal be dismissed, making it plain that he expressed no view on the point which the judge had decided.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss agreed.

Solicitors: Emsley Collins, Leeds; Pearman Grazier & Co, Leeds.

سكوا من الأصل



# Now, why on earth would anyone be willing to settle for 10 or 11% interest when Mrs T. will give you as much as 67%? – Every year.

**L**ET'S GET THINGS in perspective.

Say you have £3,000. As you know, any bank will happily give you 10 or 11% a year to let them use your money. Then the bank will take the money and invest it at around 16%.

So let's say they make £480 on your money – give you about £300 for your interest – and keep the rest.

Then, before you can get your hands on it, the Taxman comes along and takes his cut – and you're left with maybe £230.

Well ... not quite.

There's still the little matter of inflation. You see, at the same time you're making £230, the cost of living is certain to fetch up at over 7% – so you'll probably lose £210 on the £3,000 you lent the bank in the first place in order to make £230 in interest.

**W**HAT ABOUT the building society? Well, the story is not much different. They might allow you 1% more – but you'll have to lend them your money for longer, so that they can earn more on it than the bank does.

In any case, let's say you put money in a building society for a number of years and you've managed to earn £5,000 in interest. Naturally, the Taxman will get his share again – as much as £2,000 – because when you earn INTEREST it's fully taxable.

**B**UT DON'T DESPAIR – you see, there's a very interesting "upside" to all of this. Because the way the rules of the game are set up, the Government says that if you're prepared to put in a bit of effort and make the £5,000 in CAPITAL GAINS\* rather than just interest – then you can keep it all!

So, depending on your tax rate, that gives you a whopping increase of 33% to 67% on your money! And the best part of it is – it's compliments of Mrs T.

What's more, it doesn't even stop there. Because now you're also allowed to increase your profit by the rate of inflation – so you pocket that too! Just because it's Capital Gains.

**M**IND YOU, it's sad how lazy some people can be. You'll hear them say things like, "Well ... I'm not too sure I want to learn about how to make Capital Gains, and anyway, is it really worth the bother?"

In just a minute we'll get to the first part of that question, but in the meantime let's answer the second part with a brief example:

We know that if you make Capital Gains instead of interest, you get to keep up to £2,000 a year extra. Now, if you take that "free gift" from the Government and earn say a 16%

\* CAPITAL GAINS: The profit you get from selling something for more than you paid.

In the United States, for example, you don't get any tax break on Capital Gains.

return on it (just like the chap at the bank does with the money you lend him) – in less than 14 years you'll have turned it into an extra £100,000!

Or, you might want to keep it compounding all the way up to £300,000, or even £500,000.

**P**ERHAPS you feel that's a bit far-fetched? Not at all. You see, because of the "magic" of compound growth, even at 14% your money actually keeps on doubling every five years!

Now you could be thinking that you don't know how to get a 14% return? That you've never had the opportunity to learn much about money matters?

And of course, you're not alone.

Just look around and you'll find people who can tell you all about Word Processing ... or the Treble Chance ... or the Anasazi Ruins ... or whatever. But don't ask them if they know anything about how to manage their own money ... And don't ask them about Options ... or Government Gilts ... or Penny Shares ... or Equity Release Home Mortgages.

**W**HY? BECAUSE – incredible as it now seems – it wasn't so long ago that the only way anybody could get any kind of unbiased education in personal finances and investing, was from odd scraps of information picked up from newspapers and magazines ... or cocktail party chatter ... or by costly trial and error.

But fortunately, that's all in the past – because now you can get the kind of independent, unbiased, practical investing and money management know-how you need, in one complete no-nonsense package.

**S**UCCESSFUL PERSONAL INVESTING (SPI) is the unique "hands on", self-instruction course in investing and money management, that you review at home ... at your own pace ... with no pressure.

The SPI course shows you clearly, in plain English, in a short series of non-technical lessons that get right to

the point, how to accomplish these three important steps –

**FIRST** – You'll quickly see how to "uncover" up to an extra £2,000 a year to invest – money you probably don't even know exists ...

**SECOND** – You'll be surprised how easy it is to learn how to evaluate for yourself things like the new pension schemes ... gilts ... building societies ... shares ... property ... tax cutting ... "PEPs" ... In fact, all the important areas are covered.

**THIRD** – And maybe most rewarding – you'll learn in detail about a number of crafty but simple "behind-the-scenes" techniques that you don't usually get to find out about at all. The kind that can often boost your returns to 20, 30, even 50% or more – sometimes in months – not years ...

**T**AKE, FOR EXAMPLE a little technique called a "straddle", which lets you bet that the stockmarket

will go up – and at the same time bet that it will go down – and, believe it or not, you can make a profit whether it goes up or goes down! (Lesson 8) ...

Then there's the "secret" of BETA (Lesson 5), the easy way to choose a Unit Trust, that the industry doesn't like you to know about. (Just try to get the information out of them!) ...

And in Lesson 9, you'll learn how to slash the up-front cost of buying Government Gilts by as much as 50%, using "margin" ...

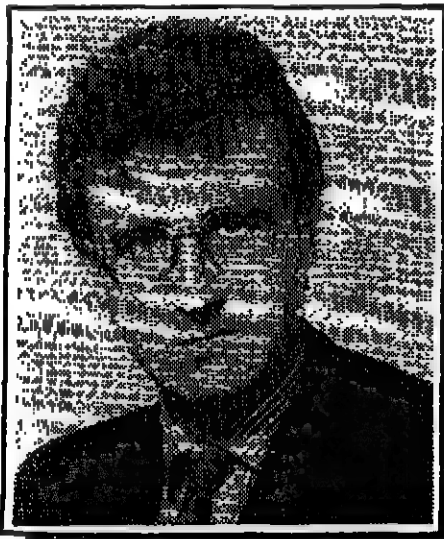
**Y**OU'LL SEE EXACTLY how to buy and sell shares without the bother of actually having to own them (Traded Options, Lesson 10) ...

And how to "top-up" your Pension Plan by taking advantage of the new rules – then borrow it right back again! (Lesson 12) ...

Of course, there's a good deal more, but as you can see, SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL INVESTING is definitely not

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Douglas Moffitt  
TV & Radio Financial Commentator

**"A**t last, it is possible for a normal human being to learn the ins-and-outs of money-management and investing without being subjected to all sorts of pompous and confusing technical twaddle ...

The Successful Personal Investing programme from IRS is like a great breath of fresh air."

*Andrew King*

just some collection of "hot tips" or boring technical mumbo-jumbo.

Far from it.

In fact, you'll find that each lesson is carefully structured so that it's no more difficult to follow than a kitchen recipe, where all the ingredients are listed and the preparation described in logical, step-by-step sequence that anyone can follow and understand.

Bear in mind, too, that Independent Research Services is not connected with any Stockbroker or Insurance Company or the like ... nor with any Commissioned Salesmen or Agents. So you can be absolutely sure that what you will learn will be for no one's benefit but yours.

**N**OW, YOU'LL PROBABLY find that you want to spend a couple of hours a week with the course lessons – but think about this:

Most people spend more time planning a fortnight's holiday than learning how to manipulate their money.

True, money isn't everything. But it does help. And in learning how to use the practical know-how and techniques clearly described in the SPI programme, you'll be giving yourself an excellent chance of being well on the road to financial independence in just a few years.

So, even if you just want to see for yourself – you can now get to look over the first two lessons for 10 days just by posting the coupon below.

Here's how the SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL INVESTING programme works:

- 1 Two lessons are made available every 4 weeks or so, for £9.50 each, plus postage.
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- 3 You can cancel this arrangement at any time, and drop out of the course whenever you want.

On this basis, please send me the first two lessons. I'll review them at no charge. Then, I'll either send them back – or pay for them only if I decide I want to continue.

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[illegible]

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 89.0 (day's range 89.0-89.1).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES				OTHER STERLING RATES	
Market rates for January 31					
	Range	Close	1 month	3 months	
New York	1.4790-1.4830	1.4890-1.4910	0.80-0.840c	2.60-2.580c	Argentina austral*
London	1.4790-1.4830	1.4890-1.4910	0.80-0.840c	2.60-2.580c	2.263.52-3.065.3c
Amsterdam	2.1779-2.1793	2.1812-2.1826	0.80-0.810c	2.1824-2.1836	2.1824-2.1836
Bremen	1.55-55.48	1.55-55.48	0.80-0.810c	0.80-0.810c	0.80-0.810c
Frankfurt	1.55-55.48	1.55-55.48	0.80-0.810c	0.80-0.810c	0.80-0.810c
Paris	1.4790-1.4830	1.4890-1.4910	0.80-0.840c	2.60-2.580c	Brazil cruzeiro
Geneva	1.4790-1.4830	1.4890-1.4910	0.80-0.840c	2.60-2.580c	29.242-24.265c
Madrid	1.4790-1.4830	1.4890-1.4910	0.80-0.840c	2.60-2.580c	Cyprus pound
Osaka	1.4790-1.4830	1.4890-1.4910	0.80-0.840c	2.60-2.580c	2.263.52-3.065.3c
San Francisco	1.4790-1.4830	1.4890-1.4910	0.80-0.840c	2.60-2.580c	2.263.52-3.065.3c
Stockholm	1.4790-1.4830	1.4890-1.4910	0.80-0.840c	2.60-2.580c	2.263.52-3.065.3c
Switzerland	1.4790-1.4830	1.4890-1.4910	0.80-0.840c	2.60-2.580c	2.263.52-3.065.3c
Tokyo	1.4790-1.4830	1.4890-1.4910	0.80-0.840c	2.60-2.580c	2.263.52-3.065.3c
Yokohama	1.4790-1.4830	1.4890-1.4910	0.80-0.840c	2.60-2.580c	2.263.52-3.065.3c
Other Sterling Rates					
India rupee			13.12-12.12c	13.12-12.12c	
Kuwait dirham			0.4500-0.4500	0.4500-0.4500	
Malay dollar			0.4500-0.4500	0.4500-0.4500	
Mexican peso			0.4500-0.4500	0.4500-0.4500	
New Zealand dollar			0.4500-0.4500	0.4500-0.4500	
Singapore dollar			0.4500-0.4500	0.4500-0.4500	
Sri Lanka rupee			0.4500-0.4500	0.4500-0.4500	
Taiwan dollar			0.4500-0.4500	0.4500-0.4500	
Thailand baht			0.4500-0.4500	0.4500-0.4500	
U.S. dollar			0.4500-0.4500	0.4500-0.4500	
Yemen rial			0.4500-0.4500	0.4500-0.4500	
Zimbabwe dollar			0.4500-0.4500	0.4500-0.4500	

\*Present = 100, Discount = 100.

[illegible][illegible]

LONDON FOX			LONDON MEAT EXCHANGE				
Pigs	Prime	Price	Official prime prices previous day		Retail Weight		
			(£/stone)	Cents	3 months	Vol	
COCOA	AMT Futures	Oct 682-99.00	Copper Grade A	1354.0-1360.0	1316.0-1319.0	374825	Steady
Price	Dec 682-99.00	Dec 682-99.00		1312.0-1315.0	1270.0-428.00	37690	Steady
Jan 682-99.00	Jan 682-99.00	Jan 682-99.00	Copper B	1283.0-1287.0	1240.0-1280.0	8550	Steady
Feb 682-99.00	Feb 682-99.00	Feb 682-99.00	Copper C	1263.0-1267.0	1229.0-1270.0	98200	Steady
Mar 682-99.00	Mar 682-99.00	Mar 682-99.00	Copper D	1243.0-1247.0	1209.0-1250.0	98200	Steady
Apr 682-99.00	Apr 682-99.00	Apr 682-99.00	Copper E	1223.0-1227.0	1189.0-1230.0	98200	Steady
May 682-99.00	May 682-99.00	May 682-99.00	Copper F	1203.0-1207.0	1169.0-1210.0	98200	Steady
Jun 682-99.00	Jun 682-99.00	Jun 682-99.00	Copper G	1183.0-1187.0	1149.0-1190.0	98200	Steady
Jul 682-99.00	Jul 682-99.00	Jul 682-99.00	Copper H	1163.0-1167.0	1129.0-1170.0	98200	Steady
Aug 682-99.00	Aug 682-99.00	Aug 682-99.00	Copper I	1143.0-1147.0	1109.0-1150.0	98200	Steady
Sep 682-99.00	Sep 682-99.00	Sep 682-99.00	Copper J	1123.0-1127.0	1089.0-1130.0	98200	Steady
Oct 682-99.00	Oct 682-99.00	Oct 682-99.00	Copper K	1103.0-1107.0	1069.0-1110.0	98200	Steady
Nov 682-99.00	Nov 682-99.00	Nov 682-99.00	Copper L	1083.0-1087.0	1049.0-1090.0	98200	Steady
Dec 682-99.00	Dec 682-99.00	Dec 682-99.00	Copper M	1063.0-1067.0	1029.0-1070.0	98200	Steady
Jan 682-99.00	Jan 682-99.00	Jan 682-99.00	Copper N	1043.0-1047.0	1009.0-1050.0	98200	Steady
Feb 682-99.00	Feb 682-99.00	Feb 682-99.00	Copper O	1023.0-1027.0	989.0-1030.0	98200	Steady
Mar 682-99.00	Mar 682-99.00	Mar 682-99.00	Copper P	1003.0-1007.0	969.0-1010.0	98200	Steady
Apr 682-99.00	Apr 682-99.00	Apr 682-99.00	Copper Q	983.0-987.0	949.0-990.0	98200	Steady
May 682-99.00	May 682-99.00	May 682-99.00	Copper R	963.0-967.0	929.0-970.0	98200	Steady
Jun 682-99.00	Jun 682-99.00	Jun 682-99.00	Copper S	943.0-947.0	909.0-950.0	98200	Steady
Jul 682-99.00	Jul 682-99.00	Jul 682-99.00	Copper T	923.0-927.0	889.0-930.0	98200	Steady
Aug 682-99.00	Aug 682-99.00	Aug 682-99.00	Copper U	903.0-907.0	869.0-910.0	98200	Steady
Sep 682-99.00	Sep 682-99.00	Sep 682-99.00	Copper V	883.0-887.0	849.0-890.0	98200	Steady
Oct 682-99.00	Oct 682-99.00	Oct 682-99.00	Copper W	863.0-867.0	829.0-870.0	98200	Steady
Nov 682-99.00	Nov 682-99.00	Nov 682-99.00	Copper X	843.0-847.0	809.0-850.0	98200	Steady
Dec 682-99.00	Dec 682-99.00	Dec 682-99.00	Copper Y	823.0-827.0	789.0-830.0	98200	Steady
Jan 682-99.00	Jan 682-99.00	Jan 682-99.00	Copper Z	803.0-807.0	769.0-810.0	98200	Steady
Feb 682-99.00	Feb 682-99.00	Feb 682-99.00	Copper AA	783.0-787.0	749.0-790.0	98200	Steady
Mar 682-99.00	Mar 682-99.00	Mar 682-99.00	Copper AB	763.0-767.0	729.0-770.0	98200	Steady
Apr 682-99.00	Apr 682-99.00	Apr 682-99.00	Copper AC	743.0-747.0	709.0-750.0	98200	Steady
May 682-99.00	May 682-99.00	May 682-99.00	Copper AD	723.0-727.0	689.0-730.0	98200	Steady
Jun 682-99.00	Jun 682-99.00	Jun 682-99.00	Copper AE	703.0-707.0	669.0-710.0	98200	Steady
Jul 682-99.00	Jul 682-99.00	Jul 682-99.00	Copper AF	683.0-687.0	649.0-690.0	98200	Steady
Aug 682-99.00	Aug 682-99.00	Aug 682-99.00	Copper AG	663.0-667.0	629.0-670.0	98200	Steady
Sep 682-99.00	Sep 682-99.00	Sep 682-99.00					

هكذا من الأصل





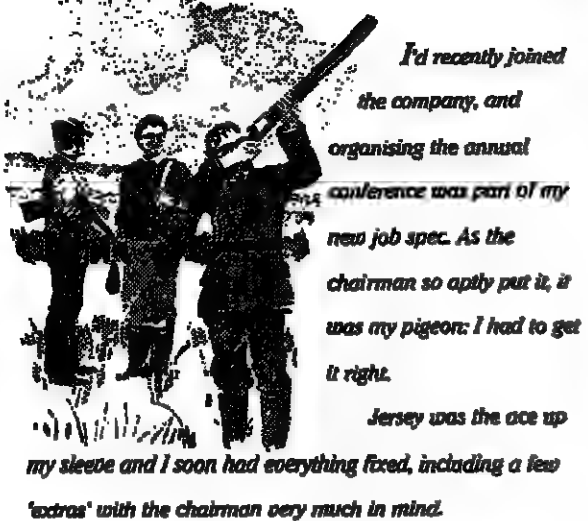


CONFERENCE  
& EXHIBITION CENTRES

## FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT  
by Anthony Cox

Stage-eye view at the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre: "Meetings and lunch breaks are shorter. There is a tendency to spend less time in the main plenary session with everyone together. Instead, meetings tend to break up into small working groups"



**"It's your pigeon" said the chairman "Just get it right."**

One was a clay pigeon shoot and out on the range I thought a little encouragement might not go amiss. Just as he was about to call I had my chance: "Your pigeon chairman, I believe".

The right move at the right time? Too early yet to tell, but the conference went well and the chairman is set on a Jersey holiday next year. So, it would seem, I did get it right.

Send for details to: Conference Director, Jersey Conference Bureau, Weighbridge, St Helier, Jersey, J.L. Tel: 0534 78800.

# Jersey

A break, with convention

## Item 1: where do we meet?

When people plan a conference, their first demand is usually for "something different". The "concrete block" is being increasingly spurned for venues such as zoos, safari parks, museums and boats.

But venue-hunters do not have the choice that statistics suggest. There are more than 3,000 conference venues in the UK, but when facilities are matched to requirements, the choice can narrow greatly. The demand for space can limit prospects even further.

"We have had to phone 90 venues to find conference space in London," says Heather Francis, of Conference Line, a venue-booker agency. "This also happens sometimes in the Midlands, particularly if there's something on at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham."

Paul Swan, of Spectrum Communications, a conference production company and consultancy, says: "Someone once told me there were 35,000 hotels in the UK and that one could argue that they are all venues because they each have a place where at least two people can meet."

"Most conferences take place in

hotels. The main groups and hotel-marketing chains pursue the conference market with great vigour. And because location is always the number one factor, you will find that the really successful conference hotels are easily accessible. The Post House hotels, for example, are close to motorways and have good car parks.

"Probably a third of all UK conferences take place in the Midlands because that is easiest for most people to get to. After location, the demand is for facilities and then service."

After the hotels, business is shared between purpose-built conference centres, which attract the biggest events, universities, municipal halls such as assembly rooms, stately homes like Leeds Castle, and the more unusual venues.

Swan says national companies that are members of international groups have tended to hold separate conferences, but, possibly spurred on by thoughts of 1992, are joining forces with their European counterparts to run a big-budget event for a large number of people at a different location each year.

For companies without the overseas connection, "away" conferences are declining in popularity

Wherever it is, the vital thing will be to make sure the event is effective

as an increasing number of firms take a more hard-headed approach to the amount of time they are prepared to see staff "off the job", says David Hackett, of the Marketing Organization, a conference and incentive travel group.

Stephen Kaye, of the Conference Centre agency, has noted a trend over the past year or two to avoid London because it has become "extremely expensive". Many companies are moving up the M1 to Northampton, Leicester and Nottingham, and down the M4 towards Swindon, Bath and Bristol.

Swan says that conferences are getting shorter. "For example, for product launches it is now common for presentations and hospitality to be confined to half-days, with two different audiences on the same day." Audience participation is growing, in some cases supported by electronic-response systems in

which delegates are provided with key pads to indicate responses to questions from the platform and the response is instantly converted into computer graphic representations on video screens.

In the corporate sector, the trend towards more businesslike, harder-working and more participative events is confirmed by Chris Edwards, business manager of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster. "Meetings and lunch breaks are shorter," he says. "There is an increasing tendency to spend less time in the main plenary session with everyone together. Instead, meetings tend to break up into small working groups."

Research conducted by the centre shows that most meetings now last a day or less. "What seems to be happening is that businesses are holding more but shorter meetings and trying to ensure they get the most out of them."

"Conferences are becoming more sophisticated. The lecturer with his overhead projector is passing into history, and even fairly modest internal company meetings are now

making use of professional production companies, with hi-tech audio-visual and video presentations and elaborate stage sets to sustain interest and punch home the message. Ninety-five per cent of meetings now make use of audio-visual support."

The increasing demand for quality is having a significant influence on developments in the conference industry, Swan says. "In the past, the bulk of our work was concerned with helping clients communicate with their sales force, dealers and distributors, but we are now more often communicating with other employees as well."

Hackett sees companies extending their range of conference and travel applications - and putting more effort into original and participatory leisure activities during the conference period.

The European challenges is acknowledged by Kaye. "As Europe becomes more accessible with the dawn of 1992 and the opening of the Channel Tunnel, the competition among venues will intensify," he says. "The future of UK venues looks uncertain unless they can ensure that their product is better than the best in Europe. Only in this way will they maintain their lead."

## NEC leads the way

Expansion heralds a strong future for British venues

The turning point for the UK exhibition industry was the opening of the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham in 1976.

The centre doubled Britain's exhibition capacity and, for the first time, gave it a venue with facilities equal to those of its Continental competitors.

Nevertheless, the NEC is

smaller than its principal West German, Italian and French competitors.

Despite initial scepticism about its location, the centre, established with £40 million from the City of Birmingham, successfully challenged London for a share of the top sector of the exhibitions market, undoubtedly aided by its road, rail and air links with the

rest of Britain and overseas.

In its first year, the centre hosted 32 exhibitions; last year it was home to more than 100. It now attracts the main industrial fairs and about four million visitors each year.

A new halls complex was opened last year and the NEC's 125,000 sq yd capacity is planned to increase to 200,000 by the end of the decade.

Complementing the NEC is a major development in the conference sector. Britain's first purpose-built convention facility - the International Convention Centre - is scheduled to open in Broad Street, Birmingham, in April next year.

In west London, Earls Court - which holds the number two spot among UK exhibition venues - is undergoing a big expansion with the development of Earls Court 2. Its associated Olympia facility has also increased its capacity in recent years.

Earls Court and Olympia comprise the largest privately-owned exhibition centre in the UK.

By early next year, Earls Court 2 would add a further 17,000 sq yds of prime exhibition space to the centre's existing 42,000 sq yds, said Rush Dray, Earls Court Hall director.

Despite the dominant position of the three major venues, there has been a significant growth of regional exhibition centres, particularly with the renovation of G-Mex in Manchester and the opening of the new purpose-built Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow.



Philip Steel, of Conran Design, studies drawings of the International Convention Centre

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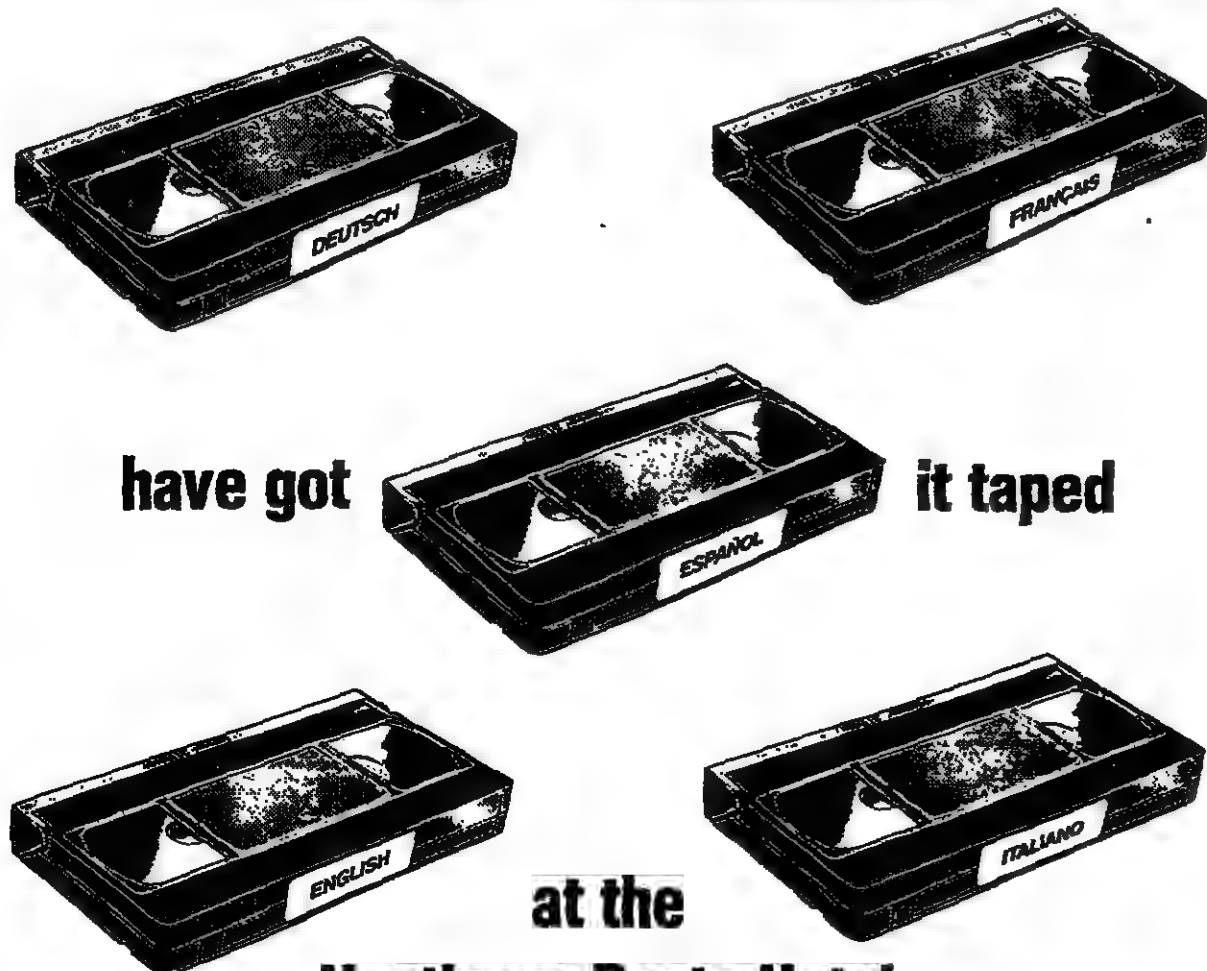
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How the delegates see it: audience participation is growing, in some cases with electronic-response systems in which key pads are used to indicate responses to questions from the platform

# More tell and sell

**J**eremy Sale is emphatic. "People have always spoken about conferences and exhibitions, but we like to put it the other way round: exhibitions and conferences." The director of the Exhibition Industry Federation is underlining the importance of the £1 billion British exhibitions industry.

There is now, of course, a close relationship between the two. Few exhibitions will not have some form of conference alongside and, vice versa, conferences and seminars will develop an exhibition element.

Sale's organization provides the collective voice for the British exhibitions industry. "In Britain, exhibitions are made up of three different strands - organizers, contractors and venue owners - whereas in West Germany, for example, it is all one."

Sale does not see Britain taking on the European exhibition giants after 1992. "With our venue capacity and the size of exhibition halls we have, we'll continue to run highly specialized shows," he says.

"We have, however, set up initiatives with Brussels and are taking a lead in trying to get a common 'denomination' in Europe, whereby if you exhibit in, say, London or Munich, the definitions, nomenclature and standards are all of one ilk."

One of the federation's main aims has been to prove the effectiveness of exhibitions as a marketing medium. "We don't really know yet

**As the industry grows, conferences and exhibitions move closer in concept**

about the effect of exhibitions on purchasing decisions," Sale says. "Proper research and audited figures were needed, and, for the first time, we have them. Soon, we will begin putting our findings into shape. Our research will demonstrate the benefits."

In the past two years, the industry has been buoyant and has expanded at a great rate. "We are optimistic about expansion prospects in the industry for the next five years," Sale says.

The federation's preliminary research work into the British exhibitions industry has shown that in 1988, 9.5 million visitors passed through the turnstiles of 651 exhibitions in 46 venues with a minimum capacity of 2,390 sq yds. They generated a total expenditure of nearly £1 billion. In 1984, there had been 467 exhibitions at 26 venues.

Further expansion, however, is

limited by the number and size of venues and the dominant position of London and Birmingham. According to Sale, the NEC is the country's "prize venue" for size and modern facilities, but London is still seen as the magnet for exhibitions.

"The business is fairly seasonal - you have troughs and peaks," Sale says. "Everyone wants to exhibit at the same times of the year. There is, however, plenty of scope. We want to make medium-size exhibitions more international, thus turning them into bigger ones, and the specialized ones into more specialized ones."

The picture is one of development of tried and tested venues rather than the building of new ones, for which the costs would be prohibitive. Sale says: "Wembley is extending, the Arena in London's Docklands has come on stream and Brighton is thinking of expanding."

**A**berdeen last year found itself host to 2,000 Quakers for its university's biggest - and quietest - summer conference. Paul Boness, Aberdeen University's conference marketing officer, says: "This year promises to be noisier; one booking includes more than 700 Canadian pipers and drummers."

Britain has three main groups of suppliers of conference facilities: hotels, purpose-built centres such as London's Queen Elizabeth II Centre - and universities.

"Our story is one of growth and development," says Carole Forman, secretary of the British Universities Accommodation Consortium (Buaac), the universities' 19-year-old collective marketing organization. The universities score over their hotel rivals in three

## Campus lessons

ways. They have large, well-equipped, purpose-built lecture halls; they occupy larger sites, often in parkland settings, with recreational and proper study facilities, and they are cheaper.

The Buaac "24-hour tariff" for lunch, tea, coffee, meeting room, dinner, bed and breakfast ranges from £22 a person at Queen Mary College, London, to £58.25 at Churchill College, Cambridge. A three-star hotel would charge between £20 and £25 for the same package. Delegates can meet, eat and sleep at the same

building or on the same site. However, conference centres and hotels are available all year round, which is a facility that so far only 20 of Buaac's 54 members can provide.

Aberdeen is the most northerly university in Britain, but this has not been a disadvantage. "It is balanced by the sea attraction the others do not have: we're on the doorstep of the Highlands," Boness says.

Meeting the challenge for public spending cuts has been the main factor behind the universities' becoming a force in the conference business. The market leader, Warwick University, last year earned £3.6 million from conferences - 5.1 per cent of its income.

© Buaac, Box 600, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD (0402 534371).



Penny Hanson: it's show time

## Confex 90 is the show for everyone

**M**ore than 4,000 visitors have registered already for International Confex 90, which will open at Olympia next Tuesday for three days.

The event will be the largest meetings, incentive travel, exhibitions and conferences show to date, with 325 stands representing 812 exhibitors. Last year Confex, now in its seventh year, attracted 5,267 visitors; this year, its organizer, Blenheim Queensland, expects about 8,000. Of those attending the 1989 show, 31 per cent controlled budgets of more than £50,000 and 19 per cent were authorized to spend more than £50,000.

Penny Hanson, joint managing director of Blenheim Queensland, says: "International Confex 90 will have something for every buyer, from executives or-

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**LAST WORD ON EXHIBITIONS**

© A new booklet listing 169 exhibitions in the UK this year has been produced by the Department of Trade and Industry, the British Tourist Authority and the Exhibition Industry Federation. Trade Fairs in Britain, which details exhibitions in 34 industry sectors, is an

amalgamation of previous DTI and BTA listings and has been published as a result of an initiative by the EIF. Copies are available from the EIF, Shear Lane House, 254 Upper Richmond Road West, London SW14 8AG (01-878 9130) or from BTA offices abroad.

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# World bid to catch the gravity wave

A £30 million project to prove Einstein's theory of space-time is being led by Scottish scientists. Pearce Wright says their new observatory could unlock the secrets of the universe

British scientists are about to take centre stage in unique international effort to prove the existence of gravity waves: the so-called ripples in space-time predicted by Einstein but which have yet to be convincingly detected.

The researchers have embarked on a multi-million pound enterprise which could provide answers to some of the most baffling questions in astronomy about the age of the universe and how the first galaxies and stars were formed after the Big Bang of creation. Several observatories, linked at points around the world, are needed for the experiments.

Indeed, the new trans-global project could resolve growing confusion. The flood of discoveries by powerful ground-based optical and radar telescopes and spacecraft are introducing more perplexing queries rather than answers to questions.

The invention that should resolve some of the conundrums is a revolutionary type of laboratory in which scientists hope, for the first time, to detect the gravity waves that, according to Einstein's theory, sweep silently and unseen across space from exploding stars, black holes, pulsars and the convulsions of other celestial bodies.

But only a handful of scientists worldwide are working in this field. Scotland provides one of the prime sites, at Tents Muir Forest, north of St Andrews in Fife, for the novel type of observatory planned for detecting gravity waves.

It will use a new type of instrument — a laser detector — being pioneered by groups at Glasgow University, the Max-Planck Institute at Garching in West Germany, and the California Institute of Technology, Caltech. All have built prototypes.

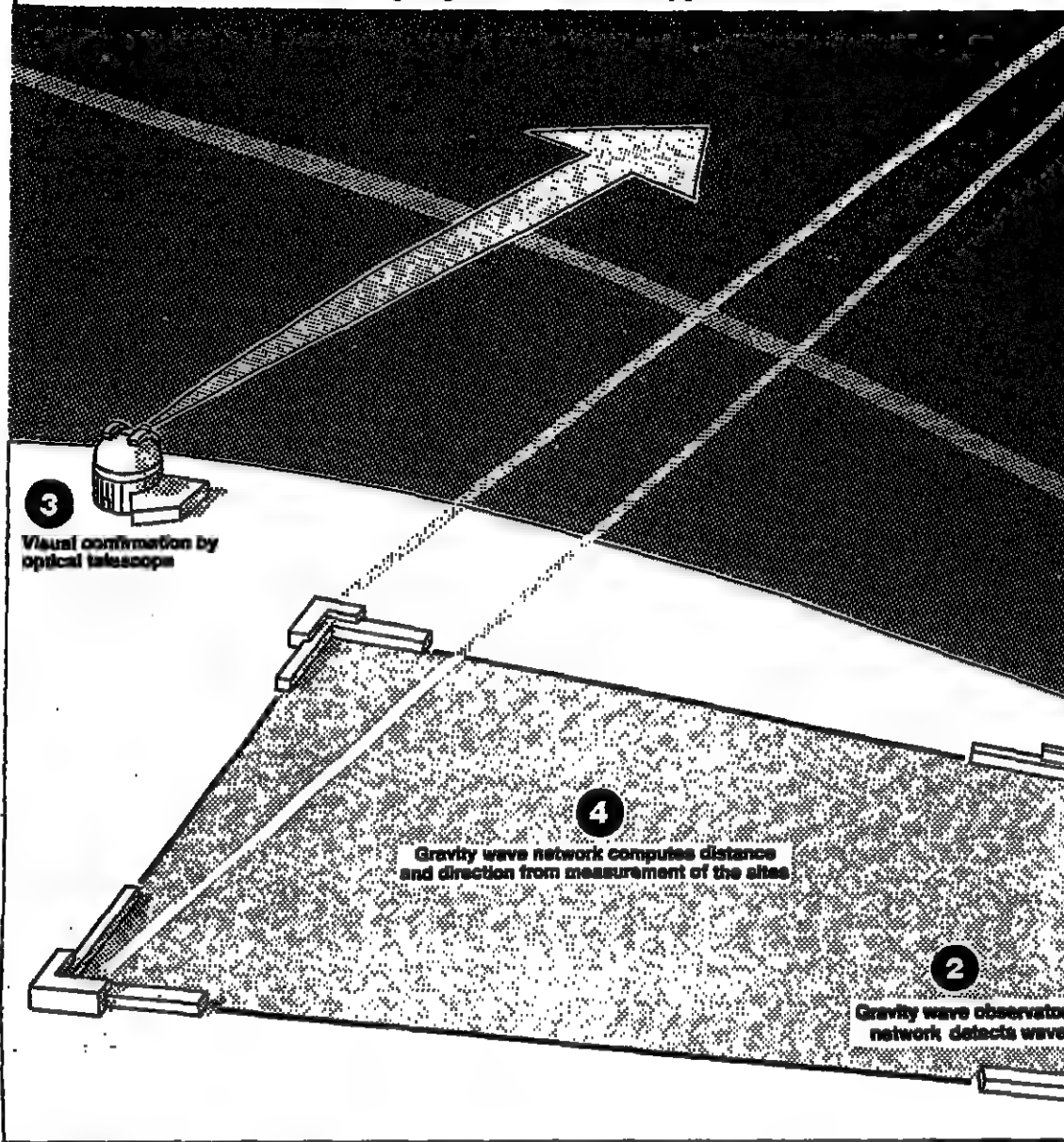
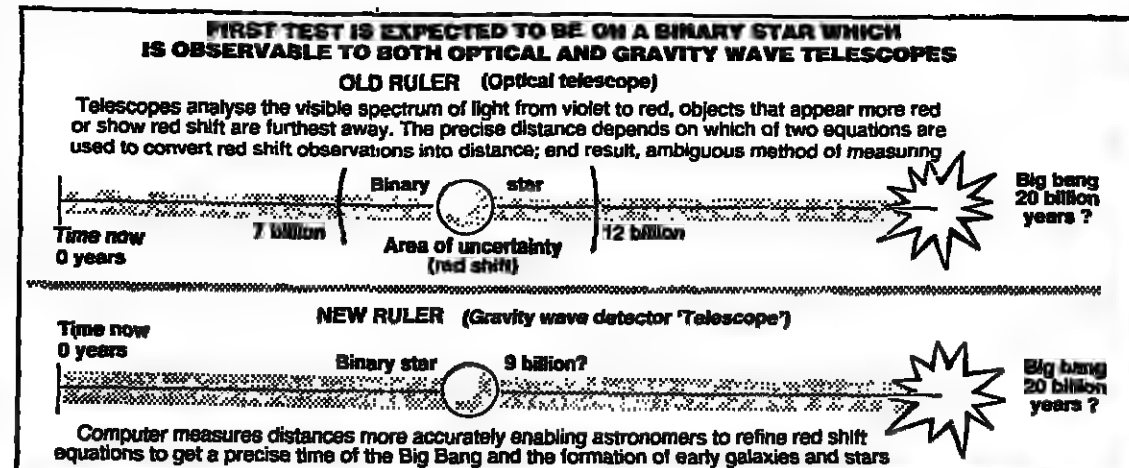
Professor James Hough, director of the Glasgow team, believes the gravity wave instruments will give astronomers a new window on to the universe.

The detection of gravity waves will give new types of information, qualitatively different from those produced by any other observation," he says.

Among the fundamental disputes that could be settled is the argument over the established methods astronomers use to measure distances and occurrences in galaxies far beyond ours. Modern cosmology uses a measurement of red-shift, which is now found to be influenced by other factors, and therefore less accurate.

Instead, the linked gravity wave observatories should provide the nearest thing to an exact cosmic tape measure, or ruler, for the direct measurement of distance across space.

But the primary experiment is to provide the definitive test of



Einstein's view of the universe, as he described it in his General Theory of Relativity that refined Newton's theory of gravity by adding time to the other dimensions of space.

The new gravity wave detectors, each costing about £30 million to build, will depend on shining laser beams along two tubes, each three kilometres long. The one proposed as a joint Glasgow University/Max Planck project could be excavated either in the Scottish countryside, near St Andrews, or at a site in Bavaria.

Despite the prediction by Einstein of the existence of gravity waves, the first attempt at detection was made only 25 years ago.

The first builder of gravity wave detectors was Dr Joseph Weber, at the University of Maryland, in the United States. His major device was a 1.5 ton cylinder of aluminium, hanging from vibration-proof mountings in a vacuum chamber. It was meant to be so sensitive that, if a gravity wave passed across it, the stress produced could be picked up electronically by the most delicate strain gauges.

There were some sensational

moments that turned out to be false alarms, but no conclusive evidence of gravity waves.

More sensitive, metal solid detectors were built 20 years ago, in Glasgow, based on pioneering work by Professor Ronald Drever. Again, they failed to find the elusive gravity waves.

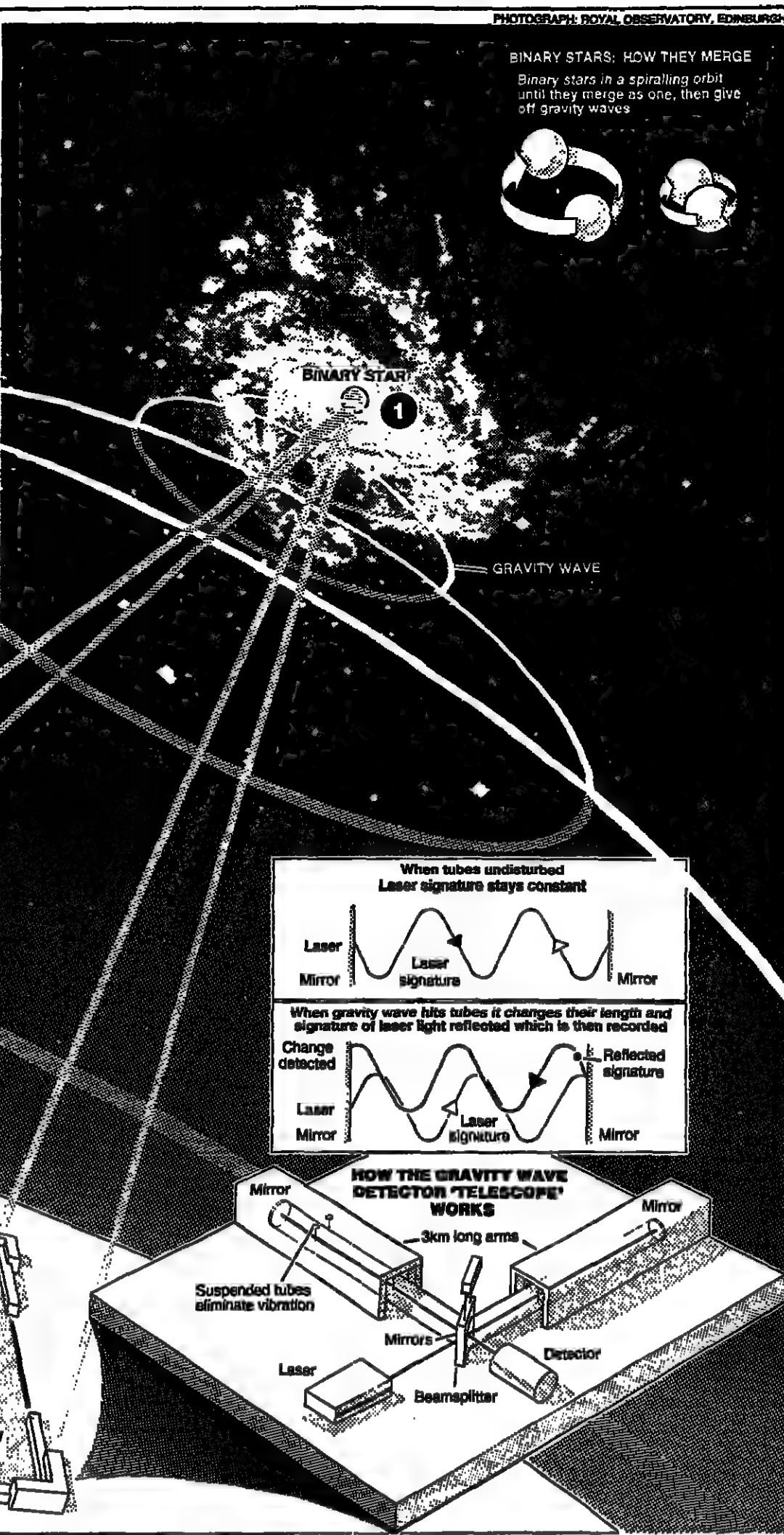
Drever now heads a gravity wave team involving Caltech, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University, California, which has plans for two observatories: one each on the east and west coasts of America.

Proposals have also been prepared for Italian-French and Australian-Japanese gravity wave observatories. A gravity wave "telescope" needs a site free from any seismic activity.

Professor John Sandeman, from the Australian National University (ANU), and David Blair, from the University of Western Australia (UWA), have found an ideal place at a sandy area on Wallingup Plain, near Gingin 45 miles north of Perth.

Hough says: "Ideally, a network of at least four observatories, several thousand miles apart but linked by atomic clocks, is needed to make an accurate location of the source of gravity waves."

Continued on page 37



BINARY STARS: HOW THEY MERGE  
Binary stars in a spiraling orbit until they merge as one, then give off gravity waves

## Nasa's space shock

A leading partner of America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) has voiced concern over plans to economize on the Freedom international space station project (Pearce Wright writes).

Disquiet was expressed by Professor Reimar Lüst, director-general of the European Space Agency (ESA), in an address to the US House of Representatives committee on science, space and technology. He hoped that Nasa would honour the original agreement on co-operation, signed — at President Reagan's invitation — with the European agency in 1984, and reinstate the developments on which the agency is spending \$5 billion (£3 billion) as part of the

Europe is worried about cuts to the Freedom project

multi-billion Freedom space station that was to be launched in 1995.

ESA's contribution to the venture is covered by a package of projects called the Columbus development programme. It includes a manned laboratory to be attached permanently to Freedom; a spacecraft called a man-tended free-flyer (MTFF) that would carry experiments back and forth from the manned laboratory into

space; and the polar platform, a second spacecraft for remote sensing, which was to have had its equipment renewed every three or four years from the space station.

ESA scientists are having to consider other options, including scrapping a manned laboratory module because of cuts in spending on the space station.

The proposed redesign of Freedom would reduce the electrical power and other services available for the European projects, making a manned module impractical. The redesign has also angered Canada and Japan, which planned to share in a manned module.

Nasa still hopes to build the station and have it fully crewed by American astronauts within six months of its 1995 target date. But it has to achieve that while saving 20 per cent of the money first proposed for the project.

The changes not only rob the laboratories of electrical power, they also threaten European and Japanese plans for a free-flying laboratory because there would be no provisions for looking after it.

Nasa did not consult its international partners, which together will spend \$8 billion on the space station. But the Americans still expect those contributions.

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

# Slimming the screen

Scientists are taking longer than expected to develop a television thin enough to hang on a wall. But will it catch on? George Cole reports

For years, the electronics industry has been promising television sets which are so thin they will hang on the wall like a picture. Yet, despite all the advances in television technology, large flat television screens barely exist outside the laboratory or science fiction novel.

Television sets and computer monitors are bulky because they use a cathode ray tube (CRT). Developed more than 80 years ago, it works by firing a beam of electrons on to a phosphor-coated screen to produce tiny points of light called pixels.

Television pictures are made up of about half a million pixels and the greater the number of pixels, the sharper the image. CRTs give high picture quality and are cheap to make, but they are large, heavy and use lots of power.

Both the electronics and computer industries want to replace the CRT with flat-screen technology — although for different reasons. The electronics camp wants to develop compact video equipment with crystal-clear pictures; computer companies want portables with high-quality text and graphics.

Finding a replacement for the CRT has not been easy. But Dr Alan Knapp, leader of information display at Philips laboratories, says: "Making a flat-screen display is relatively simple; making it cheap enough to compete with the CRT is another story."

Front runners in the race for the flat-screen display are gas-plasma, electroluminescent, liquid crystal display (LCD) and the flat CRT. Gas-plasma and electroluminescent displays work by passing a voltage through gases or chemicals which causes them to glow orange-red. Gas-plasma displays are thin — about half an inch thick — and some displays are more than 3ft across and comprise more than four million pixels.

But both systems are expensive

and cannot produce a full-colour display. As a result, they have so far been restricted to military and avionics use.

LCDs look more promising. These are made by sandwiching a thin layer of liquid crystals between two electrodes. When a voltage is passed through them they twist upright, altering the amount of light passing through. For television displays, the liquid crystals are arranged as a matrix of cells which represent pixels.

LCDs have the advantages of being small, light and using little power. The first LCDs were used in watches, calculators and pocket-sized televisions.

But these early sets gave coarse pictures because their screens were only 2in wide and comprised just 20,000 pixels.

Modern LCD televisions have 5in or 6in screens with almost 10 times as many pixels and use filters for full colour pictures. Sony, Hitachi and Panasonic market portable VCRs with 5in LCD screens.

Building larger LCDs is difficult because as the screen size increases, the picture becomes poorer. Scientists are developing "super twist" crystals for bigger and better LCDs.

Sharp has demonstrated a 14in LCD screen which is 1in thick, weighs less than 4lb and has more than 308,000 pixels. Each pixel is divided into four dots, giving a display with more than one million points of light. It is acceptable for television pictures, but is not good enough for computers.

Most lap-top computers use LCDs, but these are in monochrome and the text is not as clear as that from a CRT monitor. Hitachi and Toshiba recently demonstrated 10in full colour LCD screens with picture quality matching IBM's business graphics standard. Hitachi says its screen could be available by the end of the year.

Several companies, including JVC, Sharp and Toshiba, have



Dr Alan Knapp: we have the technology to make a flat screen but it is too expensive to produce

developed LCD projectors. The pictures they give are not as bright or clear as those obtained from film or CRT, but the quality is improving. JVC recently used an LCD projector in a Japanese cinema and found the audience reaction encouraging.

But not everyone has given up on the CRT. A number of groups are working on flat CRT systems, which will combine a small size

with performance. Matsushita, parent company to Panasonic Technics and JVC, has developed a beam matrix television which combines CRT and LCD. In a beam matrix set, the phosphors are arranged on the screen in a flat matrix, like liquid crystals. But the set uses a stream of electrons to excite the phosphors, producing CRT picture quality.

Matsushita has demonstrated 16in and 4in screens, with respective thicknesses of four and 2.5 inches, but no marketing date has been set.

Despite the quest for flat-screen displays, millions of pounds are still being invested in CRT production. Knapp says: "The CRT will remain the dominant display system for many years to come. In the meantime, it will get nibbled at the edges by LCD systems."

# Nature's way to clean up

Soil microbes are being used to reclaim one of the world's most polluted sites

Scientists are preparing to decontaminate one of Europe's most polluted sites using nature technologically speeded up.

The land, nine environmentally unfriendly acres in the centre of Stockholm, formerly housed gas and coke works and a cressote plant. The land is soaked with pure cressote and stands beside a lake used for drinking water.

A Cardiff company, Biotreatment, has won the contract to make it safe by neutralizing the pollution with laboratory-grown soil microbes.

A gram of soil normally contains about 10 billion microbes. Consisting mainly of hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, carbon and sulphur, these microorganisms are harmless to humans even if consumed, but in the soil they slowly break down the complex molecules of chemical pollutants into water and carbon dioxide.

Biotreatment's scientists analyse contaminated soil samples to identify the microbe strain that is attacking the pollutants, then grow it in enormous numbers to be applied in solution to the land to accelerate the degradation.

The company's first case for treatment was a 24-acre disused gasworks site at Blackburn, Lancashire, contaminated with tars, phenols, cyanides, spent oxides and other toxic compounds, typical pollutants in land vacated by Britain's declining industries.

The £840,000 reclamation, financed by a government Development Grant, took two years and earned Biotreatment a Royal Society of Arts award in 1987. Light industry is now established on the site.

More recently, the microbial method was used on 160 square metres of the 120-acre Erdol oil refinery site at Speyer, West Germany. Oil had seeped into the soil and the underlying groundwater. The 21-week operation neutralised almost all the oil and oil hydrocarbons in the area treated.

The Stockholm project, approved by the city authorities last week and being carried out in partnership with Skanska, Scandinavia's biggest civil engineering company, is the first large-scale reclamation by microbial attack in situ — the treatment will be given without land disturbance, whereas in other projects soil is lifted and prepared on site for microbial treatment.

The reason is that land movement could spill the cressote, a cancer-inducing pollutant, into the adjoining lake, which feeds a river supplying Stockholm with water. The microbe solution will therefore be channelled through pipes sunk into the site.

Other main targets for microbial attack are refuse sites, where decomposing paper and food waste produce methane. In Greater Manchester, Biotreatment has gone into partnership with other enterprises to tap methane released from a landfill site by the microbial method. The gas then fuels a kiln run by Salvesen Brick.

At Arpley, Cheshire, the company is involved with a group that will use this method to draw out and use methane from a new dump that will receive 13 million tonnes of rubbish during the next 25 years. At peak production the tip will yield six million tonnes a year.

One great advantage of microbial treatment is that the contamination is permanently dissolved, whereas the traditional method of removing the contaminated soil, dumping it on a licensed site and laying down unpolluted soil merely relocates the problem, possibly to worry future generations.

The other environmental advantages are that it is quiet and is done on the spot, while land-stripping introduces noisy machinery and lorries travelling to and from the site for weeks.

The company also claims the technique is 20 per cent cheaper than conventional methods.

Dr John Rees, director and general manager, says: "We now have an opportunity to attack the pollutants in our soil. They cause damage to buildings and the contamination of water. And these problems are going to remain if you don't treat them in a thorough way."

Brian Collett

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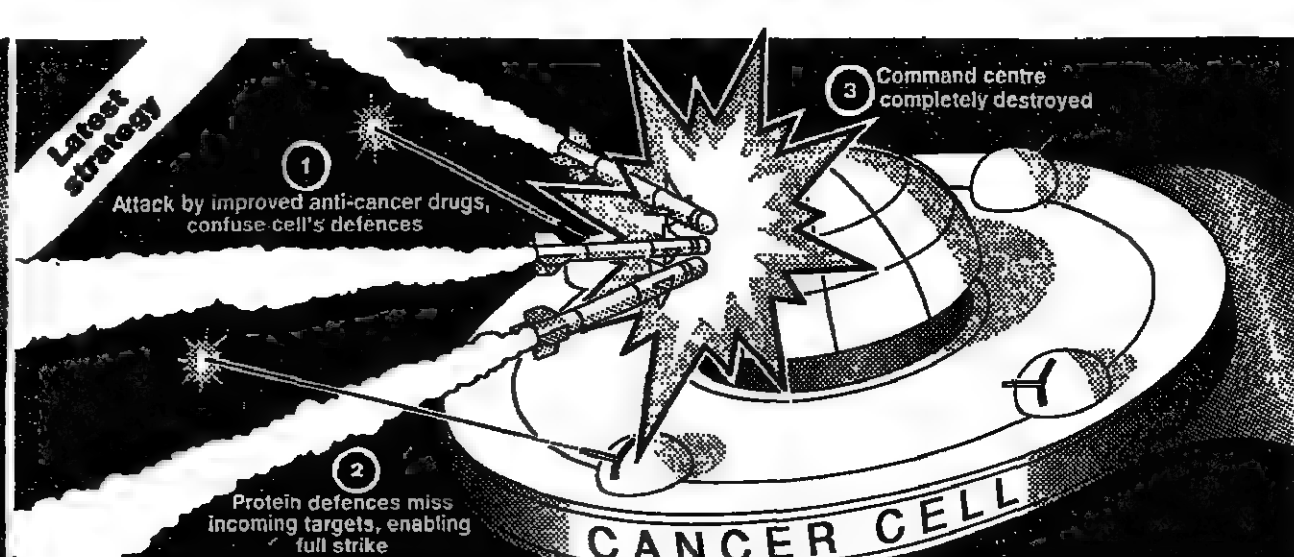
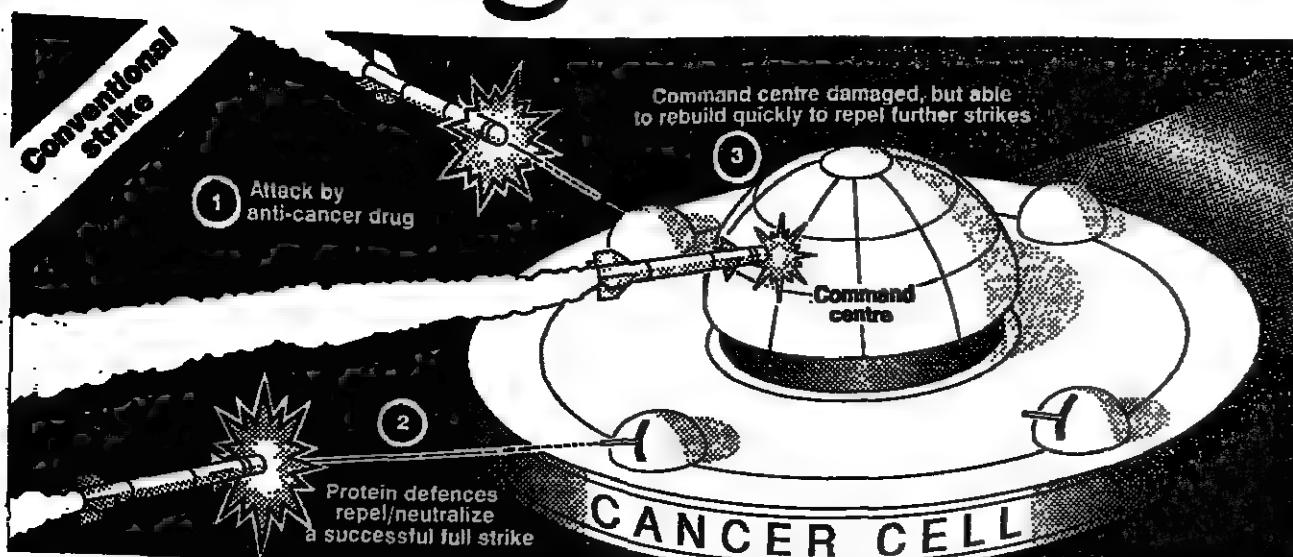
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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Firing new shots in cancer war



Scientists are testing weapons to break through the defences set up by cancer cells. Thomson Prentice says this gives solid hopes for a cure to thousands with the disease

New weapons are being developed in the war against cancer which will greatly enhance the prospects of survival for many thousands of sufferers in the next few years. Scientists in Britain and the United States are taking what may prove to be significant steps in control of the disease.

They are gaining fundamental insights into how cancer cells grow and thrive in the human body, and how they can be neutralized. Cancer is a cruel disease, not least because it so often stages a lethal comeback after apparently having been defeated. It has the power to resist even the most sophisticated drugs designed to combat it.

Now, however, new means of overcoming this trait are being developed and tested on British patients. At the same time, American researchers believe they have devised a method of transforming cancerous cells back to normal.

Drug resistance has always been one of the greatest and most frustrating obstacles to curing cancer. While many patients respond well to initial treatment, some cancer cells survive and become invulnerable.

No matter which drugs are used, every year 90,000 people in Britain die because even after success in initial treatment, eventually the disease wins the contest, repelling chemotherapy or making it impossible.

It does so in three basic ways. Cancer cells can switch on a defensive system which rejects drugs before they can take effect. They can also deactivate the drugs.

If some of the drug does penetrate the cell, it may not destroy it, and the damage can be repaired quickly.

## Who controls key skills?

The IT industry is fighting over which job standards scheme to adopt

Government plans to create national vocational qualifications before 1992 are running into difficulties as professional organizations squabble over control of the skills standard.

Limited largely to those with academic achievements in computing while Cost draws no distinction between those with degrees and those with on-the-job skills.

## Computers see the light

An American breakthrough with lasers threatens to put Britain in the shade

Scientists at the Bell Laboratories of the American telecommunications giant, AT&T, have built the world's first digital optical processor, which uses beams of laser light rather than the electric impulses of existing computers.



Step ahead: Alan Huang helped develop the digital optical processor

The work is still at a primitive stage with the prototype — a 2ft square collection of lenses, mirrors and prisms — only able to operate at a speed slower than most personal computers.

But optical computing, as it is known, promises machines that could be 1,000 times as fast as today's and could finally crack the problems in image and speech recognition that existing computers handle clumsily.

Optical systems offer the potential for far better vision systems in areas such as robotics, and the ability for computers quickly to recognize complex images such as a particular human face from a live camera image.

## Radiating concern

The health risk from low level electromagnetic radiation, emitted by computer screens and many household products, should be examined further, according to a study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the American National Institute of Standards and Technology. Researchers say there is insufficient evidence to dismiss potential health risks from the weak electric and magnetic fields found in areas around power lines, radar emitters and even electric blankets.

## Back to earth

On Tuesday, scientists began examining the 11 ion science satellite recovered by the Columbia shuttle last month that had spent nearly six years in space and that appears to have suffered more wear and tear than expected.

The original plan of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) to recover the satellite after only 10 months in space was postponed because of shuttle launch delays and the 1986 Challenger disaster. But the delay had its advantages, as scientists now say that the satellite is a mine of information about the effect of long spaceflight.

## Walking book

In an unusual public showing of future products in Tokyo, Sony has displayed what it describes as the first electronic book. The Data Discman, which weighs 1lb and is carried in the same way as a personal stereo, will use 3in compact discs which can each display up to 100,000 pages of information.

## 'Checking up on Einstein is now a matter of urgency'

This apparent rush to spend such large sums of money in a field of research that has a disappointing record rests on other advances, particularly in laser technology. The new generation of detectors is based on laser beams that bounce back and forth along two stainless steel vacuum tubes, three kilometres long and 1.2 metres in diameter, that are placed at right angles to each other.

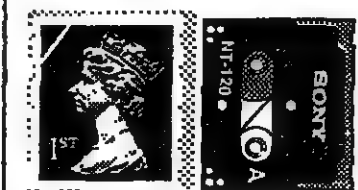
Laser light directed along each pipe is reflected continuously back and forth from mirrors suspended at the ends.

The apparatus is arranged to work on the principle that a gravity wave passing through the Earth will tend to shorten one arm of the tubes, and lengthen the other, and then reverse the treatment.

Hough describes the effect as, first, like squeezing a rugby ball-shaped object to a football shape and then back again.

But that imperceptible movement to the eye would be measured by a momentary alteration in the phase of the laser light when it is reflected back along the pipe

from the mirror to a special detector. The influence of a passing gravity wave could scarcely be enough to be called a tremor in the accepted meaning of the word.



using a two-hour tape little larger than a postage stamp and providing digital recording — one of many digital audio tape products planned — and a pair of Walkman headphones that are claimed to be able to electronically reduce certain types of background noise, including aircraft engines.

## Bug in the chips

Intel, the computer chip manufacturer, has discovered another bug in its powerful new processor, the 486, that will further delay the introduction of the latest generation of personal computers. An earlier bug, discovered in October, has been corrected, and Intel says the new problem can be dealt with by adding other logic devices rather than replacing the microprocessor. Compaq, which was due to start deliveries of computers using the new chip next week says it does not know how long the bug will delay deliveries.

Matthew May



## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY



The green machine? David Willis and the motor which he says is powered by radio waves. "As I adjusted the tuner to receive the station better the motor began humming like a top," he says

## Towards a better mousetrap

A British inventor claims he has discovered a limitless source of clean power, tapping in to high frequency radio waves to run engines. David Willis, a disabled former Grenadier Guardsman, has developed a series of prototype motors to demonstrate fuel-less propulsion.

The 52-year-old Cornishman is convinced his discovery can play a vital role in curbing environmental destruction and global warming by rendering the internal combustion engine and its fossil fuels obsolete. Willis, inventor of the world's first "indestructible paint", which has been used to protect the South African tanker, Kuluu, and parts of Oldbury-on-Severn power station in Gloucestershire, accepts that his claims are "staggering".

Nevertheless, he welcomes any of the large electronics companies to scrutinize his work. According to Richard Paine of Inventalink, a London consultancy that puts inventors in touch with commercial partners, the threat to the environment has become a near obsession among the nation's inventors.

He likens it to the effects of a ferry disaster which appears to galvanize everyone into action, spawning dozens of marine safety devices.

Where Willis differs, however, is that his invention is on a grand scale, with the touch of eccentricity that fits the popular image of inventors. Paine, a former advertising agency executive, says 10 years of the Thatcher Government has brought a more realistic attitude.

"More of the ideas we are seeing are very well presented. There is less of the scribbled figures and diagrams on the back of an envelope", says Charles Dawes, an inventor, and one of the three-man team that founded Inventalink eight years ago.

Greater use of word processors and computers to better present ideas highlights this trend towards professionalism. Inventors now talk about filling gaps or niches in the market rather than revolutionary ideas which nobody may want.

The exact number of inventors working in Britain is unknown but Inventalink sees about 1,000 annually. Some do it for a living, whereas others have turned a hobby into a consuming passion.

Their ideas range from Flicker Bear for children, a strap-on arm attachment that flashes bright colours at night, to a vessel that is part ship, part hovercraft.

The vessel, called a Hi-Ship, was designed by John Rillet, of Bibury, Gloucestershire. He claims it uses the

**The mad inventor stereotype is far from the new marketing power of today's ideas men, says Nick Nuttall**

same power as a conventional craft, yet can travel twice as fast on its air-lubricated hull.

To ensure the inventions registered have merit, Inventalink has formed links with experts in various fields. Only a fraction of inventors are finally taken on and promoted, given advice on patenting, presentation and a contract to protect from intellectual theft.

Some large companies still balk at the notion of independent inventors, Dawes says. But many are starting to recognize the benefits of outside "ideasmen", people capable of cracking a design or engineering difficulty from an overview of the problem.

Some big companies employ a person specifically charged with

searching for outside inventions, he explained. Also, instead of beating a well worn path to a company's headquarters, Inventalink is starting to find that businesses are coming to it.

In an attempt to reach a wider audience for British inventions, the company has started publishing *Inventions*, a monthly newsletter. This is being distributed to leading companies to act as a shopping list for ideas and to spark interest in inventions.

Nevertheless, both agree that there is still the place for the true visionary—the inventor who, standing in the shower or staring out to sea, is suddenly seized by an idea.

So it was with David Willis, who explains that his idea came two years ago, while he was recovering from a long illness. "I was struck by the fact that the Earth and the Sun's magnetic fields allowed satellites to move around our planet," he says. "I began wondering how magnetic forces could be harnessed."

Over several months, he began experimenting with a small motor consisting of coiled magnets that would run on electricity. Willis wondered if this could be designed so that radio waves could act on the

magnets, changing their polarity and causing them to move.

During the following months, he cobbled together contraptions consisting of a magnetic motor, a powerful receiver to collect radio waves, complete with microchip and an aerial.

Late one night, his work paid off. "The radio wave was coming in from BBC Radio Cornwall and to my great astonishment it started to move, using no electricity. As I adjusted the tuner to receive the station better the motor began humming like a top," Willis says. "The little thing just flew around."

Exact details of his design and its success are being kept under wraps, but he has built a transmitter and motors that he claims can turn a fly-wheel without fuel and run his grandson's pram.

Willis, whose other commercialized inventions have included a device for use on aircraft that leaks coloured dye if an engine bolt fails, is now designing a four-engine, 12ft wing-span plane for launch in summer.

A spokesman for the electronics group General Electric Company (GEC) says the company is highly sceptical that the device could be harnessed in a useful way, but adds that it would be happy to examine the prototype.

## SCIENCE REPORT

## Aids cure a step nearer

The fight against Aids moved a step further this week with the announcement of a new family of anti-viral chemicals, described by their discoverers as the most powerful found so far.

Reporting in today's issue of *Nature*, Rudi Pauwels of the Rega Institute for Medical Research in Belgium and colleagues show how the chemicals block an enzyme vital to the life-cycle of the Aids virus, HIV-1.

Remarkably, the new chemicals, called TIBO derivatives, are effective in minuscule amounts. This means that their toxicity in humans should prove to be lower than that of the Aids drug AZT, already in use.

The new chemicals are also far more selective in the kinds of virus they will stop; unlike AZT, for example, TIBO derivatives have no effect on HIV-2, a strain of the Aids virus closely related to HIV-1.

Reverse transcriptase performs its vital functions at an early stage in the life cycle of HIV-1, soon after the virus has entered a body cell. TIBO derivatives, by blocking reverse transcriptase, prevent the virus from hijacking the cell's own biochemical machinery to make copies of itself.

Most anti-HIV drugs being developed, including TIBO derivatives, stop the virus at the beginning of its life cycle. But today's announcement follows another report describing the activity of a completely

different kind of anti-HIV chemical, designed to stop the virus at a much later stage.

In the January 26 issue of *Science*, T.J. McQuade of the Upjohn Company in the United States and colleagues describe the antiviral activity of a chemical inhibitor specifically designed to block HIV-1 protease, a different type of HIV-1 enzyme from reverse transcriptase. Whereas reverse transcriptase springs into action as soon as the virus invades the cell, HIV-1 protease enters the story much later on, finishing the job started by reverse transcriptase.

The protease tailors the raw HIV-1 proteins ready for assembly into new virus particles. The American researchers' results show that after treatment with the protease inhibitor, cells infected with HIV-1 produce only defective viral particles that are less infectious than normal HIV-1.

**'Results are promising... there is the possibility that they will stop virus production'**

According to Don Jeffries, head of the Anti-

viral Testing Unit at St Mary's Hospital, London, protease inhibitors may prove more effective in treating HIV infection in the long run than drugs targeted against reverse transcriptase.

"The initial results with protease inhibitors are very promising and there is the possibility that they will completely stop virus production without being toxic," Jeffries says.

Current research into protease inhibitors suggests that it should be possible to design one that blocks HIV-1 protease but spares the body's own arsenal of proteases, killing the lethal virus, but not the body's own cells.

David Concar

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Current research within the groups includes internationally known projects such as the robot snooker player, robotic meat cutting, surgery-assisted robotics, adaptive control, process control and bi-arm robots. The main focus of research is towards the development of skilled robots requiring the integration of sensory technology, automatic control, expert systems, dexterous handling mechanisms and robotics. Research within the groups has strong industrial support through direct association with SIRA, BAE, IRL, Lucas Engineering and Systems, Avon Rubber, Knapp, Sun Valley, Westland Helicopters, and others. Applicants are invited from motivated graduates with good honours degree in engineering or science disciplines. Salary scale in the range £10,458-£18,555. Applicants will be encouraged to register for a higher degree.

The appointed researchers will be required to take part-responsibility in the management of certain tasks which will involve travel within the UK and Europe. An ability to carry out individual research as well as to work in a team is essential.

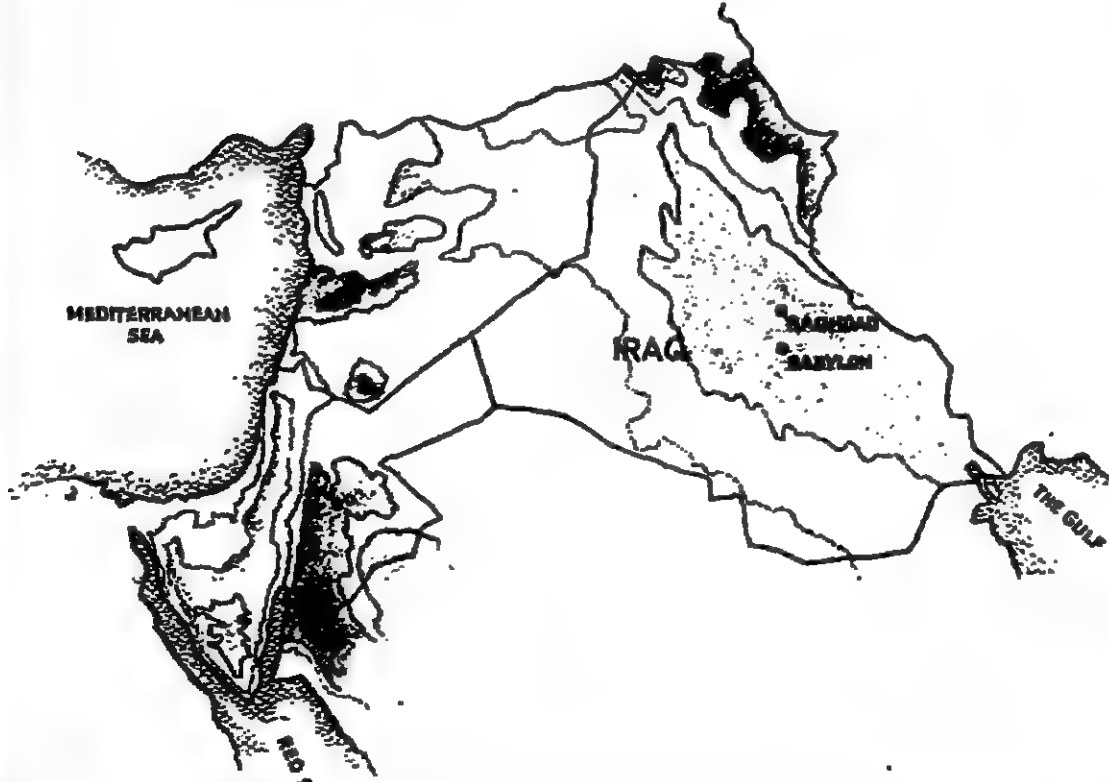
The work will be supported by the extensive research facilities available to the group, backed by other resources from the Faculty of Engineering. Informal enquiries may be made to Mr K. Khodabandehloo on Bristol (0272) 303240.

For further details telephone Bristol 303156 (ansaphone after 5 p.m.) or write to the Personnel Office, Service House, Bristol BS1 1TH. Please quote Reference 25.

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# Weightlifting to be subjected to official inquiry

By John Goodbody

As a second Welsh weightlifter was disqualified from the Commonwealth Games for doping, Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, yesterday flew to Auckland, planning an inquiry into drug abuse.

Moynihan, a notable fighter against the illegal use of drugs, wants the investigation as a follow-up to the inquiry that he and Sebastian Coe held in 1987. It will concentrate on weightlifting, after the disclosures of dope-taking in the sport by *The Times* last November and the spate of positive tests both before and after the Games.

Britain now faces an international ban from the sport for a year, because of the number of competitors who have tested positive within a 12-month period.

Moynihan, who is attending the Commonwealth Sports Ministers Conference on Sunday, would like the Olympic 1,500 metres champion to join him in the investigation, which he had considered carrying out even before the revelations in New Zealand.

Basil George, the Welsh deputy team manager, said that Gareth Hives, who won three silver medals in the 100kg class, had become the second Welsh lifter to fail a drug test at the Games. Another Welshman, Ricky Chaplin, and Subrata Kumar Paul, of India, have already been stripped of their weightlifting medals after being tested positive.

Moynihan said before leaving London: "I will continue



Hives: stripped of medals to press vigorously for random independent testing in and out of season and not just in competitions. This is the only way that cheating, through drug abuse, will be stamped out.

Meanwhile, Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat MP for North-East Fife who is a former Commonwealth Games sprinter, again demanded that the Government should move to make the possession of anabolic steroids, without a medical prescription, a criminal offence.

He said: "How many incidents of this kind are necessary before the Government takes action?" He is a sponsor of a Private Members Bill which is due for a second reading on March 2. His party yesterday tabled an early day motion, calling upon the Government to "cease its procrastination".

The Sports Council had set up an inquiry into drug abuse in weightlifting after a request by the British Amateur

Weightlifters Association (BAWLA) and yesterday Ossi Wheatley, the vice-chairman of the Welsh Sports Council, warned that financial support to the sport in the Principality could be withdrawn.

He said: "The governing body will be called to account when they return from Auckland. There is going to be a far-reaching inquiry into how and why two lifters took drugs and where they got the banned substances from."

The Welsh Sports Council has such a strong policy over drugs that it has refused to give grants to four governing bodies, which refused to co-operate with its testing programme. Last year, the Council tested 46 lifters in competition, including 12 Welshmen. Only one, an Irishman, was found positive, when he took part in an international event.

Because of lack of finance it could not afford out-of-competition testing. However, this will come in through the British Sports Council, which shortly will carry out a new programme of out-of-competition sampling, with competitors being required to provide urine for analysis, with a maximum of only 48 hours notice.

Hives, aged 23, a steelworker from Port Talbot, was sixth in the mid-heavyweight class at the 1986 Games before moving up to the heavier division. He was fourth in the 1989 international Silver Dragon competition behind Nicu Vlad, of Romania, a descendant of Vlad the Impaler, who gave birth to the Dracula legend.

In New Zealand yesterday George said: "It is the biggest smack in the teeth we have ever had. I have never known a Commonwealth Games team that has been hit so hard as this one. Unfortunately, two people, who want to put something down their throats or whatever they do with the drugs, have put a whole team in disrepute. But the team cannot be blamed as a whole."

## Paul's job in jeopardy

Calcutta (AFP) — Subrata Kumar Paul, who tested positive for steroids in the Commonwealth Games after winning two silver medals and a bronze at weightlifting, may lose his job on the Indian railways.

A railway spokesman said yesterday that Paul might be suspended from service until the department had investi-

gated his conduct at the Games. His father, Samil Paul, believes that an Indian team-mate may have given him the pills.

Subrata Kumar has not contacted his family since leaving Auckland and, yesterday, the weightlifting federation president, Chaman Lal Mehta, said Paul, aged 26, seemed to have disappeared.

## Champion condemns lifters

Lynn Davies, the Welsh sporting hero who won a long jump gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics, was at the forefront of the nation's condemnation of the two disgraced weightlifters yesterday.

Davies, in Auckland as a television commentator, said: "There are no excuses for it, because at the end of the day it is cheating. It's a sad day for Welsh sport."

"The Welsh team can't believe anyone could have been so silly as to risk taking drugs, especially after the Seoul Olympics when the whole Bulgarian weightlifting team was sent home."

"I think it's absolutely right that they are banned because the only way to fight drug taking is to impose very, very severe penalties."

## Tactics missing in Tau's double first

From David Rhys Jones, Auckland

Geza Tau won Papua New Guinea's first Commonwealth Games gold medal — and the first bowls medal — when he uncomplicated approach took her to a 25-18 win over Millie Khan, of New Zealand, in the women's singles final. Tactics did not concern her, she simply drew close to the jack at every opportunity.

Trailing 9-10 after 14 ends, Tau sneaked ahead 13-11 after 17. The next two ends tipped the scales in Tau's favour, counts of three and four setting her firmly on the road to victory.

United Kingdom players have not been able to exert any authority on the championships, and tomorrow's pairs final features Australia and Canada, with

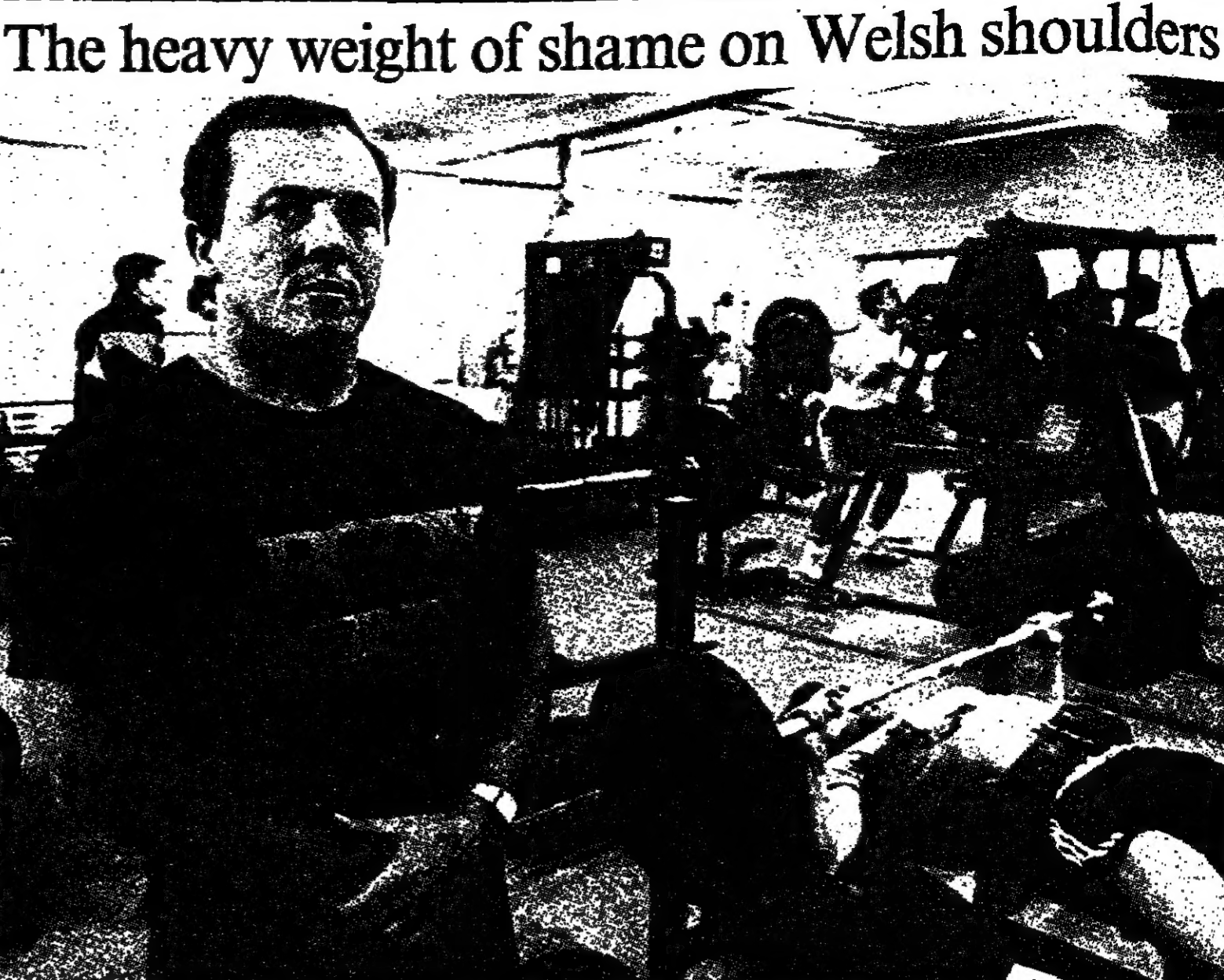
## Dead champion tribute

Auckland (Reuters) — Friends of Victor Davis, the late Olympic swimming champion, flew his ashes from Canada to the Commonwealth Games to scatter them on the waters of the Pacific in a dawn ceremony yesterday.

Team mates sprinkled water from the Los Angeles Olympic pool, where Davis won a gold medal, over the waves in tribute to the Canadian swimmer who died last November, two days after being hit by a car.

"It was the wish of his family to return his ashes to the waters off here where he won his first international success," Davis's friend, Dave Stubbs, said.

Stubbs, a Montreal journalist and former Canadian team official, carried the ashes in a plastic box to New Zealand, where Davis, twice world breaststroke champion, won



A shadow haunts the gym out of which Wales produced weightlifting gold in Auckland: Burns, the owner and a gold medal winner himself, fears the worst

## A nation has its face slapped

By Owen Jenkins

Embarrassment and shame gripped the world of Welsh weightlifting at the news that two of its medal-women in Auckland had failed drug tests. But there was little surprise among those at the grass-roots level of the sport.

John Burns, who won weightlifting gold medals for Wales in the Commonwealth Games at Edmonton and Brisbane, said that anabolic steroids were readily available even to youngsters just taking up the sport. Burns owns the gym in Swansea where David Morgan, who won three gold medals in Auckland and carried the national flag in the opening ceremony, trained.

On Sunday, after his latest success, Morgan threatened to return his

medals as a protest against the widespread use of drugs in the sport. Burns shares Morgan's feelings.

"It was like a slap in the face when we heard the news," he said. "It had to come out but it's come to a head in the worst possible way. It is such a waste because the boys could have done it without the drugs. It's put weightlifting back a few years. You're not going to have the young people coming into a sport that has such a bad reputation."

"People take drugs because it's the only way they can catch up. They can pick up steroids in some high-street gyms and other sources. I know of five or six places in Swansea and the true figure is probably double that. People phone me and ask if I supply steroids. Suppliers have the classic excuse that

if they didn't do it, somebody else would. It makes you wonder to what extent they would go. There is the temptation to move up to other things like hard drugs."

Ian Carruthers is an instructor at Burns's gym. He admits that he was tempted to take drugs when he competed. "I resisted because of concern for my health," he said. "I have personal knowledge of drug-taking in other sports — mainly the contact ones like judo, karate, even rugby. I know of people taking stuff designed for animals."

And Burns noted ruefully that the two men who were caught were probably not the only ones using drugs. "They are getting caught because they're coming off the drug too late," he said. "A lot that have

been clean might have been taking them. There's a proportion of about 20 to 30 per cent at the top Games that use drugs. I feel that testing should be applied throughout the year on a random basis."

"In my view, there are three options open to the Sports Council and the British Olympic Association. First, they can ban weightlifting from the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. Second, they should try to eliminate the Australian Sports Institute, where speed training takes place with medical back-up facilities for injuries sustained because of such high-intensity training. And third, the Government should give more tax concessions for major companies to encourage them to adopt and sponsor an Olympic sport."

## Dead champion tribute

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## Chinese accused of steroid abuse

Peking (Reuters) — Chinese athletes are using steroids and cheating because a drive to win medals has overcome an official newspaper said yesterday.

"China joins in war against cheating," the *China Daily* said the use of steroids had increased in recent years.

"Once the enthusiastic initiator of the slogan 'friendly first, competition second', the Chinese, since the late 1970s, have put more emphasis on competition in order to win medals in domestic and international tournaments," the report read.

The Sports Minister, Wu Shaoyu, disclosed at last year's national youth games that Chinese athletes had used steroids — banned muscle-

## Chinese accused of steroid abuse

building drugs with potentially serious side-effects — and said users would be punished, it added.

It called for more openness in China about drug abuse in sport. The newspaper did not name any athletes caught using steroids, but referred to a report from a drug-testing centre in Tokyo which said a urine sample from a Chinese gold medal winner at last year's Asian track and field championships in Delhi, tested positive.

It also recounted how almost all records at a national university meeting in China two years ago were broken because colleges had entered full-time athletes, not students.

"If others can cheat, why can't we?" an unnamed sports official was quoted as saying.

## Reversal by ACO on Le Mans race

By John Blunsden

The Automobile Club de l'Ouest (ACO) Club de l'Ouest (ACO) have been forced to reverse yesterday's announcement that the Le Mans 24 hours sports car race would take place on June 16 and 17. Yesterday, the ACO lost its long running battle with FISA, which announced the race's cancellation after the organizing club had failed to apologize publicly for what the governing body refers to as "a campaign of defamation" against it.

This was a reference to the ACO's contention that FISA was more interested in the race's commercial rights than with the safety aspects and that the issue of the seven kilometre Mulsanne straight, which had been introduced by FISA at a late stage in the dispute, was a smokescreen aimed at hiding the real issue.

Last year, the Le Mans race was removed from the world championship calendar after the failure of the ACO and FISA to reach agreement over television and other commercial rights.

Earlier this week the ACO announced that two chicanes were to be inserted into the Mulsanne straight to meet the recently announced FISA ruling that no circuit would be sanctioned for international racing which had a straight more than two kilometres long.

This, it was thought, had saved the world's most significant endurance race, subject to the FISA circuit inspection team being satisfied that the necessary work had been put in hand. However, in yesterday's statement, FISA described an announcement by the ACO on Tuesday, that the race would take place, as false and that no serious guarantees had been given by the ACO that the necessary chicanes would be built.

There has been a history of conflict between the two bodies, and their failure to resolve their differences, whether they revolve around safety, money or merely egos, is another serious scar on the already tarnished image of motor racing.

It is a particularly bitter blow for those teams for whom the annual appearance at Le Mans and the promotional value they derive from it is central to their support of endurance racing and the justification for the huge financial investment involved in their total racing programme.

## Hadlee to return

Wellington (AFP) — Richard Hadlee, the New Zealand cricketer, has been added to the party to play India in the first Test match in Christchurch starting tomorrow. Hadlee, who is four wickets short of becoming the first bowler to take 400 Test wickets, has been recovering from surgery on an Achilles tendon.

Hadlee, who replaces the injured Willie Watson, has been included despite his comeback consisting of just three limited-over club games.

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## US team is at new frontiers

Miami (AP) — The United States will play their first match against East Germany on March 28 in the John Stadium, in East Berlin, the United States Football Federation (USFF) said yesterday.

The United States added their eighth warm-up game for the World Cup finals when they agreed to play Iceland.

"Although we had other possibilities for opponents, the opportunity to play in East Berlin was one we could not pass up, given the recent developments in Eastern Europe," Scott Galati, the chairman of the USSF's international games committee, said.

March 28 will be a busy day for European football. Seven other matches are scheduled. The Netherlands play in the Soviet Union, Brazil play England at Wembley, Austria are in Spain, Wales in the Republic of Ireland and France in Hungary.

The United States have not played since the 1-0 victory at Trinidad and Tobago on November 19 which sent them through to the finals, and open their 1990 schedule tomorrow in the Marlboro Cup of Miami.

The United States play Costa Rica tomorrow, and either Uruguay or Colombia on Sunday. They then play at Bermuda on February 13 and come home to play the Soviet Union on February 24 at Stanford, California.

## World Cup safety problems

Rome (AFP) — Fears about the safety of the grounds on which Italy will stage the World Cup finals emerged yesterday. Work on some of them is drastically behind schedule because of bureaucratic hold-ups and political wrangling.

Organizing committees from many of the 12 centres made their fears public after the deaths of nine site workers at the grounds.

Five workmen have been killed at Palermo, two at Genoa and one each at Turin and Bologna since last September.

Part of the stadium collapsed at Palermo, killing the five, most of the other deaths have been caused by falls and the collapse of cranes.

Work is behind schedule at Rome, Naples and Palermo, which has forced contractors to speed up operations. Organizing committees said this was often leading to

## Hosts Sale

Sale Harriers, the defending champions in the European women's junior athletics championships, are to stage this year's event at Wythenshawe Park, Manchester, on September 22.

The club are to meet the £25,000 bill to cover costs.

Oldham rugby league club, has served notice to quit on the town's greyhound stadium. Oldham greyhounds rent the land off the rugby club on a 20-year lease which expires in August.

Notice to quit

Interview date

Halpin out

Ghana protest

Six-day for Elliott

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